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Issue No 87

Available from Wednesday,
February 9, 2011

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TOWN'S ARTISTS GATHER TO BRING IN CHINESE NEW YEAR Seafront welcome for the Year of the Rabbit

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Fire poi master Ivan Cleak entertains the crowds celebrating Chinese New Year on the seafront

By MATHEW BEECH

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THE Year of the Rabbit was celebrated on the seafront by scores of people.

The Chinese New Year, which began on Thursday, February 3, saw people gather on the Esplanade to listen to live music and poetry, as well as witness a fire performance.

Dover Arts Development (DAD) organised the event at the marker of the end of the North Downs Way, and the artist who designed the marker, Alma Tischler Wood, joined in the festivities.

Miss Tischler Wodd said: "I think it is a fantastic turn-out. It is surprisingly busy as it is still winter and very cold on the seafront."

More than 40 artists from in and around the town attended the event and Miss Tischler Wood gave out Rabbit-moon cookies.

Joanna Jones, one of the organisers for DAD, said: "It's unbelievable.

"There is a lovely atmosphere here and loads of nice people – beautiful."

Fire poi master Ivan Cleak, who is 73, entertained the crowd by spinning flaming objects.

Colin Hinds, from China Crisis, strummed some songs on his guitar, and actor Roy Boyd read Matthew Arnold's poem Dover Beach.

The grand finale for the evening was supposed to be the release of Chinese lanterns, but strong winds meant the display had to be abandoned.

Chinese years run in conjunction with the moon, rather than by the Gregorian Calendar.

The Year of the Rabbit is considered to be a placid year, welcomed after the ferocious year of the Tiger.

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P&O riding crest of wave as it retains travel award

P&O Ferries has been voted Britain's best ferry company for the ninth consecutive year.

The ferry operator picked up the prestigious award at the Travel Weekly Globe Awards ceremony held at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

P&O was voted the best ferry operator by the UK's travel agents for its services from Dover, Hull and across the Irish Sea.

Pictured (from left to right) are Nigel Davies, Amanda Slevin, Captain David Miller, Eliza Opara, Byron East and Simon Johnson with the trophy in front of new ship the Spirit of Britain.

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Trust waiting on port sale decision

By **MATHEW BEECH**

matthew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

THE People's Port is waiting for the Government to make a decision on whether the facility can be sold before it can make the next step.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Dover MP Charlie Elphicke stated the People's Port Trust bid has been submitted to the Prime Minister, but a decision on whether Dover Harbour Board will be able to sell the port is the next key decision.

Mr Elphicke said: "What we have done so far is we have established a community trust; we have a lot of public support in Dover; we have

got the support of the ferry companies, who are the key customers of the port.

"We have raised £200 million in the city; made a bid to the Prime Minister and now we are waiting for a decision, not on the People's Port bid, but on whether the Harbour Board's sell-off proposal should go ahead or be axed."

The proposal put forward by the Dover People's Port Trust also includes money which will be invested into the port, if the bid is successful.

Mr Elphicke added: "The plan and financing not only includes £200m to the Treasury to buy the port, it also includes £50m for the regeneration of the port zone and £50m for the investment in new infrastructure and the capital expenditure plan is £100m to be spent over the next five years."



DECISION: MP Charlie Elphicke

Fashion fund-raiser to help learning disabled

A CHARITY fashion auction is being held to raise money for people with physical and multiple learning disabilities.

Martha Trust has teamed up with Travelling Trends to put together the fashion show at the Guildhall in Sandwich.

The 16th century building will provide the backdrop for the evening, which starts at 6.30pm on Monday, March 28.

All the clothes, which are this season's high street must-haves, will be available to buy on the night at discounted rates, and Martha Trust will receive a share of everything sold.

Even the bar, which is being run by Barcode Mobile Bars, will be donating a share of every drink bought on the night.

The Fashion Show will round off with an auction and raffle with prizes including portrait vouchers from Portland Studios and a spa day and cream tea for two at Waller's Court Country House Hotel.

Julie Gayler, head of fundraising and communications at Martha Trust said: "It will be a great night and a chance to enjoy a drink or two with friends, get hold of the very latest fashions at huge discounts, and raise money for a really worthwhile cause."

Tickets are available from £10 by calling 01304 610448 or visiting www.marthatrust.org.uk/fashion-show.



MODEL POSE: Martha Trust's Carol Baalham with a mannequin in front of the Guildhall, Sandwich, getting ready for the charity fashion auction

Exhibition to highlight beauty of Downs

A NEW photograph exhibition will showcase the best that the North Downs Way has to offer.

Nigel Green will be displaying his pictures in the School of Architecture of the University for the Creative Arts in Canterbury.

Mr Green will exhibit a projection

of photographs taken for the Sea and Walk guide to the North Downs Way produced by Dover Arts Development in 2010, with the display starting at 5.30pm on Thursday, February 10.

The opening will be followed by an informal talk by the artist when he will discuss the project in rela-

tion to his interest in modernist architecture and its photographic documentation.

The exhibition runs until Friday, February 25, and is open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information, visit www.dadonline.eu.

Taskforce set up to soften Pfizer blow

By **NICK AMES**

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POLITICIANS across the area have reacted with dismay at news that Pfizer is pulling out of its Sandwich site.

Some 2,400 people work at the pharmaceutical giant's Sandwich plant, and the effect on east Kent's already fragile economy is likely to be devastating.

The move has been branded "a body blow" and "an absolute disaster" by members of both Conservative and Labour parties.

Pfizer said the move is part of "a global programme of changes announced today to accelerate Pfizer's long-term research and development strategy to create a more focused and sustainable R&D engine for innovation."

The company added: "The number of Pfizer colleagues currently employed at our Sandwich site is approximately 2,400.

"Over the next 18-24 months a majority of these positions will be redundant, but we hope to transfer several hundred positions to other Pfizer sites or to external partners, subject to employee consultation and other legal requirements."

Concerned

Conservative MP for Thanet South Laura Sandys said: "This is a body blow to east Kent. I am particularly concerned for all those employees at Sandwich Pfizer and small businesses associated with the company.

"I am arranging a meeting with the senior team at Pfizer and have had a commitment that they will play an active part in supporting the local community over the next 24 months."

"Having spoken to the business and research and development minister David Willets and with Pfizer, I am pleased that we are establishing a taskforce with ministers, Kent County Council and Pfizer to put together a dynamic transitional plan to attract new businesses to the Sandwich site."

"We have 24 months to put in place a programme of re-investment, and to ensure that this prime location becomes the home of new businesses.

"We are committed to marketing the strategic benefits of the facility. It is a purpose-built research and development facility with impressive



buildings, superb surrounding infrastructure, and close to Europe.

"In addition, we have some superb expertise and skills in Sandwich that are attractive to any investor considering taking advantage of the facility.

"With some of the highest calibre research scientists in the country positioned on the edge of England's best-preserved medieval town, I am hopeful that the facility will be put to productive economic use."

John Denham MP, Labour's shadow business secretary, said: "This is a deeply-worrying development. Pharmaceuticals must be a sector where Britain's world reputation secures jobs and growth.

"Although Pfizer says this is a global decision, we need to ask whether government ministers knew about these plans, whether they met Pfizer, and whether they made any efforts to save this work and these jobs. We cannot afford to lose global industries as easily as this."

Leader of Thanet council, Bob Bayford, said: "This news is an enormous setback for Thanet and the east Kent economy as a whole."

Clive Hart, leader of the local opposition, added: "So many residents here in Thanet rely on employment at Pfizer, and many other local businesses will be seriously affected. I am absolutely gutted by the news."

The news has even been greeted with alarm across the Channel.

A spokesman for the Opale Coast group, which works alongside businesses in the UK said: "We believe that the economic shock at losing Pfizer, and the unemployment that will ensue from this loss, makes it even more obvious that the future for both regions can only grow if we rely on each other."



GROUND-BREAKERS: The extensive site at Sandwich where Pfizer's research scientists discovered the drug Viagra, left

We'll make best of depressing news, says PM

DAVID Cameron spoke about the Pfizer pull-out during last week's Prime Minister's Questions in Westminster.

He said: "It is depressing news, it is bad news. My office has been in contact with them.

"The company is keeping all the options open in terms of what should happen to the site, including getting partner organisations to continue to work there and to get other companies to come in.

"The Government will do everything it can, co-ordinated by David Willets, and head of the office of life sciences, to try and make sure we make the best of what, yes, is a depressing piece of news."

Foreign dog spared lethal jab

A DOG has been given a second chance after it was saved from being put down.

The miniature pinscher, Alfie, was rescued by animal centre the Yorkshire Terrier and Toy Breed Rescue, and SeaFrance Dover-Calais Ferries.

Alfie was impounded by UK immigration when people acting for the owners tried to bring him into the country with an invalid passport and documentation.

His owners refused to pay for quarantine for him, opting instead to have the dog put to sleep.

The UK immigration team contacted the Yorkshire Terrier and Toy Breed Rescue, which agreed to save Alfie's life by taking on the quarantine kennels costs for a week, and also to help him back to Europe.

SeaFrance was happy to offer Alfie's rescuers a free crossing to take

him over to a boarding kennel in Calais, which has offered to find new owners for the dog.

Carole Ward, spokeswoman for the Yorkshire Terrier and Toy Breed Rescue, said: "This isn't an unusual case for us."

"We couldn't afford the long-term quarantine bills for Alfie but, with the help of SeaFrance, we were able to prevent him being put to sleep."



Ministers vow to help attract investment

THE Minister for Science and Research, David Willets paid a visit to the Pfizer site on Monday.

It comes after he and Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, promised to unite with local MPs and council leaders to attract investment to the Pfizer site in Sandwich.

Mr Willets toured the site and met with management and staff.

Laura Sandys, Thanet South MP, who joined the minister, earlier had said she felt confident there would be a united front in promoting the site's future: "For our first steps, we could not have had more political will and impact.

"We raised the specific challenges of east Kent and highlighted the importance of ensuring the site is put to productive economic use.

"Top of the agenda will be ensuring that Pfizer's valuable staff are given new employment opportunities."

"Within 24 hours of the announcement, a taskforce has already been set up to develop an innovative proposition for the site and the many skills in the local area.

"We will put all our energies into securing investment.

"The Government is on our side.

"This is not the end for the site in Sandwich."

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FUN FOR ALL: The RNLI will benefit from the Dover Harbour Board-sponsored race

Teams needed to race the dragon boats for charity

THE RNLI is urging people to sign up early for this year's Dragon Boat Challenge.

The race will take place on Saturday, July 2, as part of a day of events for the Dover Regatta.

Teams of 16 plus drummers compete against each other in traditional Chinese dragon boats measuring 40 feet long, racing across the harbour.

This year, to coincide with Chinese New Year, the RNLI is appealing for plucky teams to come forward to take part.

Entry is £150 per team and each team needs to raise a minimum of £250 in sponsorship for the RNLI.

Mr Colin Clutterbuck, captain of the winning team, C & C Carpentry, last year, said: "I entered my team, The Wood Butchers, because it's a fun day out. I can't wait to do it again this year."

"It's a great team-building experience and an opportunity to beat local rivals."

Bob Goldfield, chief executive of Dover Harbour Board which sponsors the event, said: "We're delighted to support this

By **MATHEW BEECH**

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year's Dragon Boat Race. As a major sponsor of the Dover Regatta community event for the past 12 years, we're confident the 13th Regatta will be the best yet, with plenty of teams coming together to support the RNLI and enjoy a great family day out as well."

RNLI community fundraising manager Jenni Bright said: "Many teams really enter into the spirit of the event by dressing up, trying to outdo one another."

"In previous years we've had pirates and other crazy costumes."

"To add to the fun, the onboard drummer beats time for the rowers. All in all it is quite a sight."

Nick Bailey, chairman of Dover Regatta, said: "The Regatta committee is delighted to be welcoming the dragon boats back thanks to continued support from Dover Harbour Board."

"The race will form part of a great line-up of events for what promises to be a fantastic weekend for the community."

Free trees go to their new homes

THOUSANDS of free trees have been given away in the Kent Free Trees scheme.

The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (WCCP) distributed more than 4,000 trees, with 2,075 to be planted in the Dover district and 1,997 to be planted in the Shepway district.

Project manager Kirk Alexander said: "The WCCP were pleased to take part in the Free Tree Scheme again in 2010/11, which had been delayed from December 2010 because of the weather."

"The whole WCCP staff were involved over two days to sort the 4,000 trees into 146 separate packages over Thursday and Friday, January 19-20, and then handing over the trees on Saturday and Sunday, January 22-23, to householders and landowners across Dover and Shepway."

BRANCH OUT: WCCP staff together with the 4,000 trees prior to them being sorted into individual packages



NEWS IN BRIEF

Protect your drink

DEVICES that help prevent drinks being spiked have been given out to pubs and clubs.

Almost 30,000 'Spikeys' have been distributed to pubs and clubs in Dover district in December and January, as part of work to continue to promote community safety and make sure the district continues to be a safe place.

The Spikeys were distributed by the Dover District Community Safety Partnership and are special plastic inserts, which are put into bottles to stop drink spiking.

Nadeem Aziz, chairman of the safety partnership, said: "The campaign has been a great success, and we have been very pleased with the positive response from pubs and clubs."

"Although this is not a particular issue for the area, the campaign was launched to raise awareness and make sure everyone remained safe, while enjoying the festive season and beyond. We continue to work to make sure the district remains a safe place."

Crew row for cash

LIFEBOATS crew members have raised hundreds of pounds by completing their rowing challenge.

Dover Lifeboat's volunteer crew members and supporters braved the cold of Biggin Street on Saturday, January 29, and raised £1,275 by rowing more than 70 miles.

Using two static rowing machines, the crew set out to row the equivalent distance of Dover to Dunkirk.

The target of 47 miles was passed at about lunchtime so the rowers pushed on and finally finished the day on 71 miles. This meant they could have reached Ostend in Belgium.

Volunteer crew member, Helen Tomkin said: "We had no emergency call outs on the day and we were able to put all our energy into rowing which kept us warm."

Speed up writing

A NEW course which aims at speeding up note-taking has been launched.

Pitman Training has launched a SpeedWriting course for 2011 at the training centre in Dover's Market Square.

Managing director Claire Lister said: "SpeedWriting gives you a very easy to learn structure so that you know instantly what to write when note taking and can read it back without any problems."

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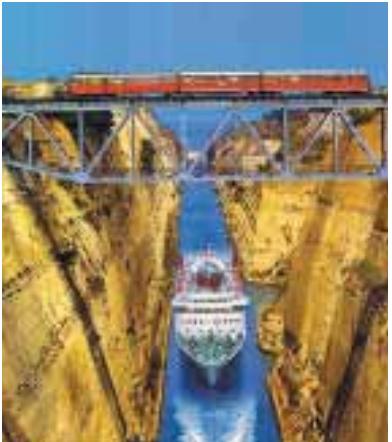
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Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only



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Experts restore wartime picture

AN HISTORIC painting which hangs in the Grand Hotel is being restored.

Experts are working on The Landing of the Belgian Refugees by Fredo Fanzoni, which depicts the arrival of people fleeing the German advance in 1914.

About 64,000 Belgians came to Folkestone as the First World War commenced and some 15,000 stayed in the town.

The mayor, Alderman Stephen Penfold, was later knighted for assisting them with a nationwide appeal for clothing and food.

Julie Crick is leading the restoration work at the hotel, which can be viewed by members of the public.

by members of the public.

She said: "The main problem is that the painting is sagging, putting pressure on the canvas. The team is strengthening the edges of what is a very important work, depicting a significant moment in Folkestone's history."

The work is expected to finish next month.

The painting was presented to the Folkestone Corporation in July 1916 as a thank you for the town's hospitality. It hung in the Town Hall, the Leas Cliff Hall and the library, before it went on display at The Grand.

Making plans for a bigger Skabour 2011

By **NICK AMES**

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"We have some surprises up our sleeves in terms of major name acts, which will again be evening ticketed events to help fund free music in the daytime at the harbour area."

Andy Shorten, of Skabour, added: "For 2011 we are delighted to have the official support of Trojan Records. The partnership with Trojan gives us real credibility."

“Full details as to how the partnership will work are still ‘work in progress’ but could include the possibility of featuring some of the artists on the Trojan roster in Skabour 2011.

"Our first outing was a major success and that is a rare event in the festival business. Folkestone Skabour Festival has all the ingredients to become the family carnival music event on the south coast."

The team has also organised a number Skabour warm-up gigs to raise cash for the festival.

Mr Sims said: "We want to continue the success of Skabour and to make it a self-sustaining community festival. This year, however, we will

BIG NAMES: Artists signed to Trojan Records, such as Horace Andy, could star

still be reliant on funding and sponsorship. Free music events are not free to put on, and although we covered the costs of last year's festival weekend, we are reliant on external financial support to run the festival again this year.

"The Folkestone Harbour Company has again been generous by allowing us to use their land for the 2011 event. We would be pleased to hear from any commercial entity that would like to talk to us about sponsorship."



yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

MARK WYATT



Q & A

The founder of Kent Community Recycling talks to **Jane Barlow** about the organisation he started more than 20 years ago as a not-for-profit organisation, and how he sees the future of recycling

Q How did KCR begin?

A It started following a programme on television which showed a Scout troop who had built a new hut thanks to money they had raised by recycling aluminium cans.

I was interested and spoke with scrap metal merchants who told me not to bother, but that was like a red rag to a bull. I then bought all the horseshoe magnets I could get my hands on so that I'd be able to separate aluminium cans from steel cans. I made contact with the Aluminium Can Recycling Association who agreed to lend us machinery – and the rest is history!

Q Why is recycling important?

A Recycling conserves natural resources, reduces energy consumption, protects our environment, supports community projects and creates jobs.

Q Do you only recycle drinks cans?

A No, some years ago we decided to widen our remit and we now recycle



drinks cans, aerosols, biscuit tins, foil, cardboard, clothing, magazines, paper, newspapers, paperback books, food tins, plastic bottles and sweet tins.

Q Was it difficult to get started?

A I recruited some helpers who wanted to earn some pocket money and we started collecting aluminium cans locally. However, my garage and garden were soon full of sacks and cans and premises loaned to us were soon filled.

We started up in July 1989 and by January the following year we opened the business premises we still have today. We were then able to collect from across Kent

and even from neighbouring counties.

Q What did you do before KCR?

A I was exhibition manager of the Empire Hall, at Olympia, London in the Jubilee Year, then became a hotelier and a self-employed picture framer.

Q What's the future of recycling?

A The EU is going to put greater pressure on local authorities to meet recycling targets. They in turn will have to put more pressure on individual households to recycle more. In the future it might be that we see a system where householders are fined for excess waste or not following proper procedures.

At KCR we offer an incentive to recyclers by paying them for their materials or donating the proceeds to a worthy cause of their choice.

Landfill space is running out – we cannot keep putting waste into the ground.

We couldn't live without the environment and yet we take very little care of it. We have caused massive damage to the environment and we need to put this right.

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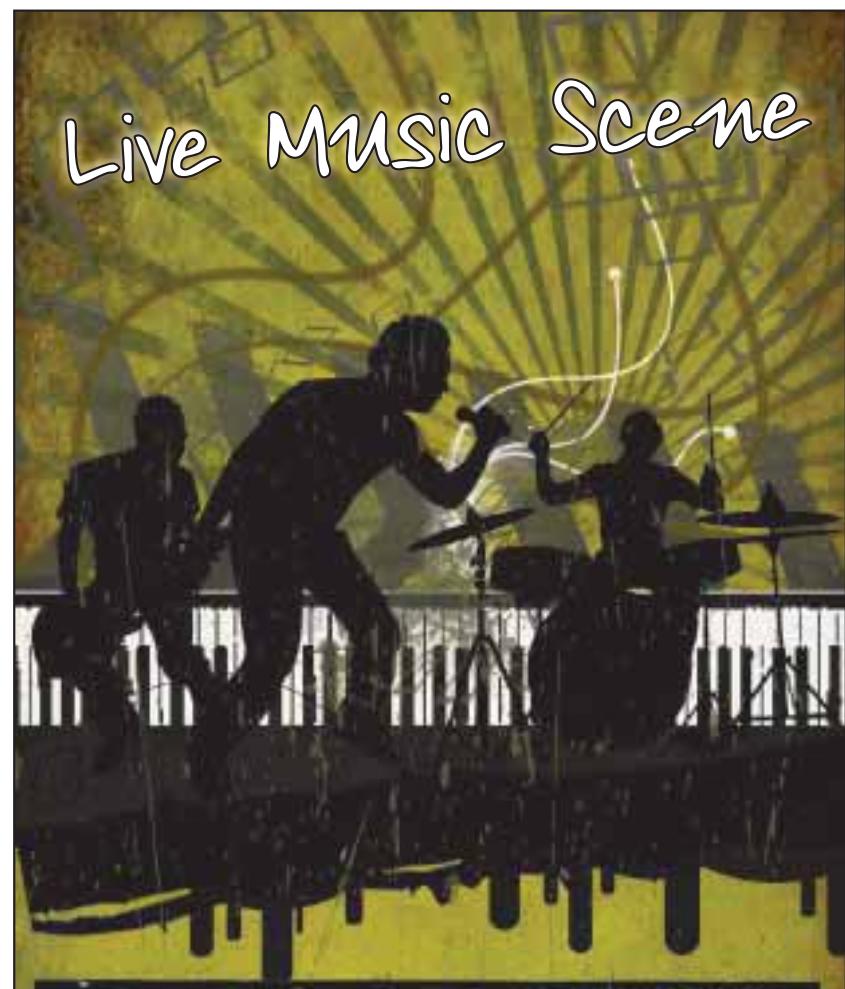
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Where & When

Saturday 12th February

Barking Mad

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
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Friday 4th March

Moscow Riley

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 12th February

Freed

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 5th March

EK1

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Thursday 17th February

Blow the Duo

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 5th March

Chopper Nostrills

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Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 18th February

Breed

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
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Friday 11th March

Supersonic

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Saturday 19th February

Radio Riot

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Saturday 12th March

Salvadore Charlie

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 19th February

Blues Mother

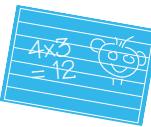
The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 12th March

Bad Pennies

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

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BREAK TIME



IN THE FRAME: Julie Crick explains the conservation work to youngsters

Brushing up on artwork history

PUPILS from Stella Maris Primary School got the opportunity to watch an iconic Folkestone painting be restored.

The Landing of the Belgian Refugees, by Fredo Franzoni, is undergoing restoration at the Grand Hotel. The children got the chance to find out more about the history behind the painting and to watch restoration work close up.

The painting depicts the arrival of 64,000 Belgians in Folkestone after fleeing the German invasion of 1914. Many arrived terror-stricken and with few possessions.

Some 15,000 remained in Folkestone and the Folkestone Refugee Committee was established to cope. There was also a generous response to nationwide appeals made food and clothing.

The committee was headed by Folkestone mayor Alderman Stephen Penfold, who was later knighted for his services. Work on the painting began on January 17 and is expected to take six weeks. Julie Crick, a qualified conservator, is leading the project.

Julian's endorsement is music to college's ears

By MATHEW BEECH

matthew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

A SCHOOL of music has been opened by world-renowned cellist Julian Lloyd Webber.

Tallis Music School was officially opened by the musician at Dover College and features sound-proofed recording studios packed with the latest technology.

Mr Lloyd Webber, 59, launched his career after winning a scholarship to the Royal College of Music at the age of 16.

After cutting the ribbon, Mr Lloyd Webber said: "In an age of cutbacks it's wonderful to see a school that's going against the grain and expanding in music."

"I know the effect music can have on young people and it's hugely significant. Dover College has a great future musically."

Aiming to follow in Mr Lloyd Webber's footsteps is Dover College graduate Elspeth Robertson, 21, who has received a scholarship from the Royal College of Music and performed a sonata by Handel on the recorder in front of the college's esteemed guest.

Headteacher Stephen Jones said: "Our plan is to significantly increase the number of pupils taking music lessons and we will be adding to our music scholarships. It's all about encouraging youngsters to sing and play an instrument."

Dover College named its new facility after



CUT ABOVE: Julian Lloyd Webber, right, and Stephen Jones cut the ribbon to open the Tallis Music School INSET: Elspeth Robertson with Mr Lloyd Webber

Thomas Tallis, a composer born in Kent around 1505. To many, he is the most important composer of Tudor times.

His first known appointment to a musical position was as organist of Dover Priory in 1530-31, which is now Dover College.

He wrote If Ye Love Me, which was performed on the day by the Dover College choir.

Director of music Paul Young said: "Dover College is always on the lookout for potential musicians among our pupils and from outside.

"Scholarships are awarded annually to those who show potential or have gained a sufficiently high standard on their instrument or voice."

"Naturally, we hope such improved facilities will encourage others to want to join us and become part of our musical environment here at Dover College."

Mr Lloyd Webber spoke to the junior musicians, and gave them some sound advice: "It's much better to practice a little each day rather than to leave the instrument for a few days not played."

SEND your schools news and pictures to dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.



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yourletters



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EMAIL: Email your letters to the editor at yourshepway@kosmedia.co.uk

YOUR LETTERS

Soaring back to musical heights

Were you ever a musician in the RAF? The RAF Music Services Association is looking for new members. We wish to contact any retired and former musicians who served in any of the RAF bands or orchestras, including the WRAF and RAF voluntary bands.

The association was formed in 1987 as a way for members to renew friendships with former colleagues. Membership includes a magazine twice a year full of news and reminiscences of RAF Music Services. Members can also attend the annual reunion each summer. Contact me on 01296 433763 or by email at jdablin@ntlworld.com for details.

John Dablin, RAF MSA

Airport station plan is a problem

Kent County Council has a bid to the Regional Growth Fund in

support of Manston airport. The bid is in three parts:

- Work to the railway line to London to bring the journey time to under one hour.
- Subsidy to an airline to run daily flights to a European hub airport.
- A parkway station off the new road near Cliffsend.

I fully support the first. I have no problem with the second if someone is willing to fund it and I compliment the interest KCC is showing in Ramsgate, though I wish members had spoken to us first. I do, though, have serious problems with the parkway station.

The plan is bonkers – the new station will have a journey time of eight minutes to the airport, but Ramsgate station could easily be rebuilt at a much lower price to allow access in the same time. I suspect that a shuttle bus could do it in eight minutes when traffic is clear now.

Sixty-four minutes Ramsgate to St Pancras could be easily achieved at the existing Ramsgate station. The second issue is a station that could be marketed as improving access to the airport. This is a multi-million-pound exercise that would deliver marginal benefits.

KCC is trying to justify it by

arguing that it is necessary to allow the faster journey time to London, but that is a fallacy.

Thanet people are fortunate that 80 per cent can walk to a station. Why would they want to use their cars to drive to a 'parkway' unless they are forced to?

The plan would simply lead to people from Broadstairs and Margate starting their journeys by driving to Ramsgate – and going through Westwood in the process!

Of course, Manston airport-owner Infratil will offer to throw in £500,000. Wouldn't you in return for a £20 million investment in your private, for-profit enterprise? If that investment was put into improvements at Ramsgate station and a shuttle-bus service, the taxpayer would be saved from making any further investments.

I believe the line improvements talked about should be made, along with investment in Ramsgate station (which could be called Ramsgate-Manston station if the airport connection needs to be marketed).

Passengers would exit on the Warre Rec side of the line, where a shuttle-bus terminal would operate – a new service road would allow the buses to exit via the swimming-

pool car park on to Newington Road and then Manston Road.

I suggest you drive it and see how close this would come to eight minutes – I expect swimming-pool car-park to the terminal would even beat that time.

Car-parking at Ramsgate station could be increased by using the swimming-pool car-park, especially if the pool is to be moved. Last but not least, Network Rail had plans on its books to rebuild Ramsgate station at a very modest price by comparison with a new station.

It would be modern, comfortable and give access to an airport shuttle bus in the way I suggest and then the existing station building could be converted to a business centre, making a contribution to local employment. The taxpayer would save money, the airport would be just as well served, local people would keep their station and jobs would be created.

Clr David Green (Labour)
Eastcliff ward, Ramsgate

about in Margate Central ward the other week. It is now following up on work done by volunteers from Turner Gain and Team Green.

After the article on my request for a spring-clean of Margate, Turner Gain volunteers came forward.

They were absolutely brilliant for 10 weeks and we washed down doorways and cleared weeds and rubbish throughout the ward.

We will continue once I get over a knee operation. Team Green also cleared weeds along the seafront and my request for the Community Payback team was followed through by officers.

On a walkabout with Adrian Whiting, the chairman of the excellent St John's Neighbourhood Action Group, we drew up a long list of alleyways and pavements that need to be cleared again.

Dog-owners who allow their animals to foul everywhere are being reported to Thanet council's dog warden.

If long-suffering neighbours want to speak to councillor John Watkins or me (01843 299207) privately with names and addresses, we will be more than happy to pass on the information to Thanet council.

Clr Iris Johnston (Labour)
Margate Central ward

Volunteers' help is appreciated

It was very good to have the Community Payback team out and

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Forklift safety indicator was not working, court told

Firm fined £200,000 after death of worker

By **NICK AMES**

nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk

A RECYCLING company has been fined £200,000 after a machine overturned and the loading bucket hit a man at a site in Minster.

Health and Safety Executive prosecuted Ling Metals Ltd of Parham Road, Canterbury, for breaching health and safety laws.

Canterbury Crown Court heard that on March 19, 2007, Darren Baker, 35, of Thanington, was helping to lay a new horseriding surface of crumbled rubber at Brambles Stables, Winchester Lane, Minster, Ramsgate.

A colleague was driving a telescopic materials handler – a forklift truck with an extendable arm or boom – commonly referred to as a telehandler. The vehicle was fitted with a loading bucket containing the rubber and it had extended its boom more than six metres. It was resting on its wheels and the hydraulic stabilisers fitted at the front of the machine were not being used.

Mr Baker walked across the path of the boom just as the telehandler reached its balance point and tipped forward. The bucket hit him



on the head and forced him to the ground.

The operator managed to bring the vehicle upright by lowering the front stabilisers. Mr Baker died in hospital two days later from multiple injuries.

The telehandler was fitted with a Safe Load Indicator device. These devices help operators stay within safe limits by using a series of lights and an alarm. The Safe Load Indicator should be calibrated so that when the alarm goes off, there is still sufficient capacity to prevent an overturn.

The HSE investigation found that the Safe Load Indicator was not correctly calibrated and was unusable at the time.

In addition, the machine's previous safety certificate, called a Certificate of Thorough Examination, had expired prior to the incident. Although an engineer had visited on two separate occasions to inspect and repair the tele-

handler, they were unable to complete this due to the poor condition of the machine.

The operator had not been told how much the bucket weighed when it was empty or full, or how heavy a load of crumbled rubber was. Lastly, the operator lacked understanding of the machine instructions, which showed how much it could lift and to what maximum distance the boom could be extended.

HSE Inspector John Underwood said: "I would like to remind owners and operators of machines fitted with older style Safe Load Indicators that these need checking and recalibrating on a regular basis, as some older machines do not tell the operator when they have decalibrated."

"It is vital that the owner and the operator have a robust procedure to ensure workers know how to correctly use the machine; how to recognise when it may be going out of calibration and what to do about it."

"Each machine should be checked by plant fitters and maintained in line with the manufacturer's recommendations."

"This was a wholly avoidable incident which led to unnecessary loss of life."

"I hope this fine will be an example to those involved in the use of telehandlers that machine maintenance is critical to enable safe operation."

Tip-offs lead to illegal workers

THE UK Border Agency has arrested seven people in Kent, including three in Thanet, for immigration offences.

After tip-offs, UK Border Agency officials raided businesses in Ramsgate, Gravesend and Sittingbourne.

A woman found to be working illegally at the Symphony Café, Ramsgate has been bailed while arrangements are made to remove her from the country.

Two Chinese men were arrested at China Garden, High Street, Ramsgate and also face removal from the UK.

In Gravesend, immigration officers found a 19-year-old Iraqi working illegally at Caesar Restaurant, King Street on January 20. The offender was bailed.

Finally, the Humayra Indian and Bangladeshi Takeaway, in Northwood Drive, Sittingbourne was visited on January 22. Two Bangladeshi men were found to be working illegally.

All employers in the cases now face a fine of up to £10,000 per illegal worker for not conducting sufficient immigration checks.

Tea dance date

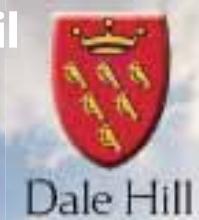
WALTZES, foxtrots, quick steps, sequence dances and more will see dancers take to the floor at the next Friends of Hartsdown College tea dance.

The event runs from 2-4pm on Saturday, and will feature sing-alongs to songs of yesteryear from Robin Howard.

Afternoon tea and cakes will be provided and there will also be a book stall, a raffle and fruit and veg sale.

Tickets for the tea dance are £4 from the main college reception from 9am-5pm during the week.

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Company's performance figures 'should be reviewed independently'

Judicial review threat to Southeastern's franchise

By MARIKE COX

marike.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A SENIOR backbencher has warned of a potential legal battle in the ongoing Southeastern row unless a full independent review is held into the train firm's performance.

The under-fire company could be in line for an automatic renewal of its franchise next year, despite hundreds of complaints from commuters and MPs about the standards of service over the winter freeze.

Now North Thanet MP Roger Gale has said information used in the Continuation Review – which determines whether the train firm is granted an automatic franchise extension – must be rigorously scrutinised, or there will be moves to force a judicial review into the issue.

His comments followed a private meeting on Tuesday between transport minister Theresa Villiers and 12 Kent MPs to discuss Southeastern's poor performance and fare increases of as much as 13 per cent on some routes.

All MPs agreed the future of the company's franchise, which could potentially be extended from 2012 to 2014 before a tender is put out to

other firms, should be reconsidered – with some calling for it to be scrapped.

Mr Gale said: "When an entire county's Members of Parliament speak with one voice to give vent to the very real anger and sense of frustration felt by the people that they represent, a minister is likely to pay heed.

"It is unfortunate that Theresa Villiers is saddled with a franchise contract and the terms and conditions of the Continuation Review that it contains, that was entered into by the previous government.

"Nevertheless, it is essential the review is rigorous and the figures upon which it is based are crawled over with a fine-tooth comb: anything less is likely to end up under judicial review."

Ms Villiers agreed to ask transport secretary Philip Hammond to seek Government funding for an independent inspection of performance data submitted by Southeastern last month.

Commuters narrowly missed out on compensation despite rail chaos during the big freeze in December after the train firm released punctuality and reliability figures showing 82.04 per cent of its trains had run on time last year.

Had it fallen below the 82 per cent target, season ticket holders would have been eligible for a five per cent reduction in fares.



ALL CHANGE? Southeastern could be in line renewal of its franchise next year

Critics said the figures had been "massaged" by the inclusion of high-speed train statistics, which is a reliable service, but does not serve the whole of Kent.

A BBC investigation found that had these figures not been included, Southeastern would not have met targets and would now be faced with making a huge compensation payout.

Mr Gale said there did not appear to be a single Kent MP who was prepared to take the

train operator or its figures at face value.

He added: "We do not wish to see the franchise re-awarded to a company that those who we represent believe has failed them."

MP for Dartford Gareth Johnson also attended the meeting.

He argued that Southeastern provided neither value for money nor a satisfactory service.

He said, "I feel [Southeastern] must not hide behind figures that few of us have confidence in. There is a high degree of anger among all of Kent's MPs towards Southeastern and a determination that their franchise renewal should not be just rubber stamped."

A spokesman at Southeastern said the company was not involved in Tuesday's discussions and therefore could not comment.

However, he said the firm's focus remained on continuing to improve punctuality, reliability and communication with passengers and the company was always happy to discuss any changes government wished to make.

He added: "As Roger Gale MP has acknowledged, Southeastern is bound by its contract with the Department for Transport."

Kent manager of rail watchdog Passenger Focus Tunde Olatunji said standards had been disappointing and that it was only right an independent party looked at performance figures.

Campaign call to Stack lorries in the Channel

MOTORING misery caused by Operation Stack could come to an end if land beneath the Channel is reclaimed and turned into a giant lorry park.

That is the view of the Campaign to Protect Rural England's Kent branch – Protect Kent – which is calling for innovative solutions to the county's ever-increasing traffic problems.

Speaking at a public meeting on Wednesday, the group's chairman Richard Knox-Johnston told councillors and residents that the Port of Dover should be asked to build a new lorry park on land reclaimed from the sea as part of its ongoing expansion plans.

He added that such a park could hold up to 6,000 freight vehicles and remove the need for lorries to queue on the M20 when crossings are stopped or delayed through bad weather, incidents in the Channel Tunnel, or industrial action in France.

After the meeting, Protect Kent director Hilary Newport told Kos it was time for transport chiefs to "take three or four steps back" and reassess the county's traffic problems.

She said: "Operation Stack is a big problem that occurs for reasons beyond anyone's control, but it does seem particularly harsh that the whole of the county suffers when it happens.

"For a really modest cost when compared to the rest of the port's expansion plans, it could reclaim a section of land from the sea and provide a wonderful opportunity for a good, secure and properly policed lorry park.

"This would mean that freight can instead be stacked right on the port's doorstep where it would not be a burden on the rest of Kent."

Operation Stack can be implemented in three phases depending on the volume of traffic, the first of which involves coast-bound lorries queuing on the M20 between Junctions 11 and 12. Phase two results in the addition-



OPERATION STACK: When lorries park on the M20 the rest of the county suffers

al closure of the motorway between Junctions 8 and 9, while phase three affects the London-bound carriageways of the same stretch.

Kent County Council is currently developing its plans for a possible lorry park near Aldington as an alternative to Stack, but the proposals have been met with fierce opposition from residents and environmental campaigners.

The meeting Mr Knox-Johnston attended was organised by Gravesham Rural Neighbourhood Forum to discuss plans for a new lower Thames crossing linking Chadwell in Essex with land to the east of Gravesham.

He said: "The county councils seem to believe the only way forward is to encourage and nurture the unsustainable growth of traffic – especially road-based freight – through Kent.

"It is this growth which is a major driver for the perceived need for an extra crossing between Kent and Essex, which would be highly damaging to the environment as well as hugely expensive."

Company to the rescue amidst chaos in Cairo

HOSTAGE and terrorism experts from a Kent-based intelligence agency have been deployed to rescue hundreds of business clients caught up in the Egyptian crisis.

Teams from the Inkerman Group, which has its operations centre in Ashford, flew into Cairo last weekend in order to lead worried employees and their families away from the rioting, looting and protests that continue to rock the nation.

According to Inkerman's chief executive Gerald Moor, many of those rescued were forced to leave burnt-out offices behind them as a result of the escalating violence over President Mubarak's reign.

"One very big complex was burned to the ground and another was so badly damaged you would never have imagined it contained any furniture at all," he said. "Even the air conditioners were ripped from the walls."

"We're continuing to evacuate people but the challenge is where to take them. Cairo airport is operating but you need all the right documentation before you can fly, some of which can take some time to get hold of."

"Getting out of the city by road can also be very difficult because there are several checkpoints, some of which are manned by bandits. We let them take whatever they want because the most important thing is getting past them with people's lives intact."

Mr Moor founded the Inkerman Group in 1996 following a 20-year career in the British Army, where he specialised in international intelligence including counter-terrorism.

He also founded a company involved in the manufacture of scuba diving equipment, where he invented the world's only back-mounted jetpack with variable speed controls.

According to Mr Moor, the Inkerman Group – which is also helping businesses caught up in the Tunisian riots – is constantly monitor-



BEDLAM: Demonstrators swamp an army truck in protests in Tahrir Square, Cairo

ing global issues so its team of experts can give up-to-date advice to clients.

"We started deploying people to Egypt last week in anticipation that something might go pear-shaped," he said. "It's a fine line between doing something like that and not, but you have to make that decision before the bullets start to fly."

"We've managed to get everyone out safely so far but their businesses have been very badly affected."

"Like in Britain there are lots of foreign employees in Egypt, so we've flown them to a variety of different countries even if it's not where they would call home."

"The most important thing is to get them out safely, and we will be out there as long as our clients want us there."

Airport inquiry into expansion



LYDD PLANS: New terminal building

A PUBLIC inquiry into plans to expand Lydd airport opens next Tuesday and is scheduled to last 13 weeks.

The £25 million expansion was approved by Shepway council in March, 2010, but the former Labour government ordered an inquiry. It will open at Shepway Civic Centre in Folkestone, then be adjourned for the rest of the week.

Site visits will be carried out before the inquiry reopens on February 22.

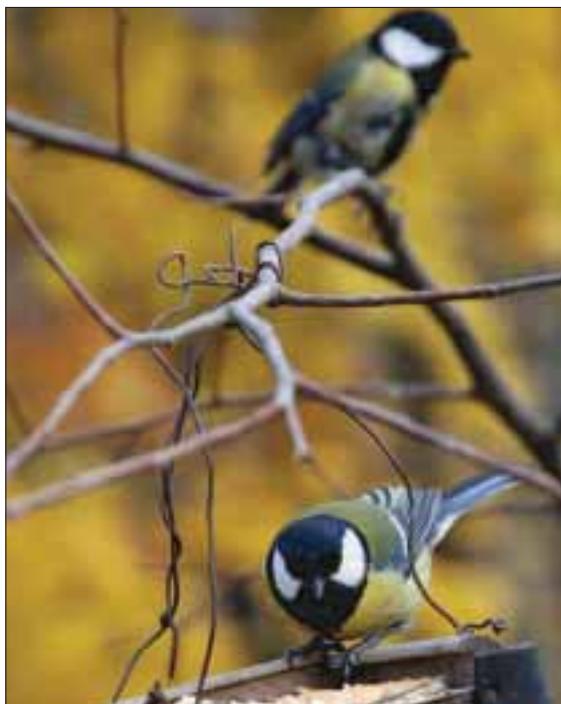
Lydd airport's plans to build a new terminal and extend its runway by almost 300 metres were approved after a seven-hour meeting of the council.

The terminal would be able to handle up to 500,000 passengers a year. The council also approved a 150-metre starter apron for aircraft to be parked, loaded and boarded.

The plans received more than 12,000 objections, including from Greenpeace, the RSPB, British Energy, CPRE, Kent Wildlife Trust, and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. The inquiry will look at issues topic by topic, touching on ornithology, noise, ecology, nuclear safety and socio-economic considerations.

Members of the public will be able to speak on July 1, 5 and 6. A final decision is not expected until late 2011.

Answering the call to boost RSPB's coffers



TRILLED: The RSPB can put old mobile handsets to good use

By MATHEW BEECH

matthew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

THE RSPB is calling on people in Kent to help break a world record and to raise thousands of pounds at the same time.

The wildlife charity is urging people to donate their old mobile phones in a bid to break the world record for the number of used mobiles donated over the course of one week, running to Sunday, February 13.

The record stands at 3,883 phones but together the RSPB and mobile phone recycling specialist Redeem are hoping to surpass this by collecting more than 5,000 phones and raising in excess of £10,000 for the charity.

Those taking part will help raise funds that will be used to protect wild birds and their habitat.

They will also be diverting handsets away from landfill sites, where they can cause a pollution hazard. It is estimated there are thousands of unused

phones in Kent and some 90 million old mobile handsets gathering dust across the UK. Sophie McCallum, of RSPB South East, said: "This is an exciting challenge and we hope people will dig out their old phones and help raise cash for conservation work."

Lisa Carr, marketing executive at Redeem, said: "It would be fantastic if we managed to reach our target of 5,000 mobiles during the challenge and raise even more money for a worthwhile charity."

"The RSPB works for a better environment, rich in birds and wildlife, and if it wasn't for the charity many species would be under threat. With thousands of people from Kent and across the UK upgrading their phones every month, donating them to aid the RSPB is the perfect way to dispose of the old and unwanted ones."

Mobile phones can be donated by returning the freepost envelope supplied with the January edition of the RSPB's Birds magazine or through collection points at RSPB reserves.

For more information, visit www.recyclingappeal.com/rspb or phone 08451 302010.

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IN MY VIEW



By Sara O'Meara

Readers never had it so good

WE HAD IT SO GOOD BY LINDA GRANT

AWARD-winning novelist Linda Grant pulls apart the dreams of the baby-boom generation.

Her book follows the lives of Stephen and Andrea from idealistic student days in Oxford through hippie squats, radical chic and a slow descent into middle-aged and middle-class respectability in north London.

The story crosses the Atlantic back to Stephen's American childhood and across to eastern Europe as well as covering the aftermath of 9/11 and the London Tube bombings.

Political events are mirrored by private tragedies as the naive optimism of the 1960s slowly dribbles away and long-buried family secrets come to the surface.

But Grant, who has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize in the past, never lets the story stumble and her deft characterisation and readable style brings her characters and their small circle of family and friends vividly to life.

We Had It So Good is published in hardback by Virago, priced £14.99.

Also available now is *The Secret Lives of Dresses* by Erin McKeon, published in paperback by Hodder, priced £6.99.

This debut novel follows Dora, a college student who is coasting along in life.

Dora is in love with a man who only appreciates her business skills and she is delaying deciding what to do with her life. But then her world is turned upside down when her grandmother Mimi has a stroke.

Intent on acting out Mimi's wishes, Dora rushes home to take over the running of her grandmother's cherished vintage store. Here, while distracting herself with the store's retro glamour, she discovers that a secret life has been written for each item in the shop.

Through reading these captivating stories she learns more about her grandmother and herself – and realises that she is ready to take on the future after all.

McKeon's gentle, stylish and bittersweet tale is made even more enjoyable due to her obvious love and knowledge of timeless fashion.

And finally, *42: Douglas Adams' Amazingly Accurate Answer to Life, the Universe and Everything* by Peter Gill is published by Beautiful Books, priced £8.99.

In *The Hitchhiker's Guide*, Douglas Adams said 42 was the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything.

The name of this debut book by Peter Gill appears to suggest an ultimate answer to Adams' ultimate answer. Instead what we actually get is a series of facts – random if it weren't for the common theme of the number.

The author makes no secret of how the book was thrown together, even stating that a small donation will be made to Wikipedia for every book sold: Oh dear.

The book concludes that 42 means nothing and is interchangeable, so the last 300-plus pages were inconsequential. I read all 333 pages of this book: How I wish there had been only 42.

CINEMA

THE FIGHTER (15)

NOMINATED for seven Oscars, including three nods for its supporting cast, *The Fighter* is an incredible story of triumph against adversity both in and out of the boxing ring.

The brutal and physically demanding sport has frequently been a magnet for plaudits.

In 1977, *Rocky* pummeled the opposition at the Oscars, winning best picture and best director, four years later, *Raging Bull* landed Robert De Niro a deserved Academy Award as best actor for his riveting portrayal of Jake LaMotta.

More recently, Denzel Washington entered the Academy Awards ring with his powerful embodiment of wrongly imprisoned boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and director Clint Eastwood delivered a knockout blow with *Million Dollar Baby*, earning Hilary Swank her second Oscar.

The Fighter provides all of the usual emotional jabs and cuts as its working class hero defies the odds for one shot at glory.

Tensions between the pugilist and his family threaten to derail his championship bid, culminating in the obligatory final flurry to coax the audience to its feet.

Micky (Mark Wahlberg) is a talented boxer from Massachusetts, but he has always languished in the shadow of his half brother Dicky (Christian Bale), who famously knocked down Sugar Ray Leonard then lost everything to the ravages of drugs and crime.

Trained by Dicky and managed by his monstrous mother, Alice (Melissa Leo), Micky accepts lacklustre fights for scant rewards until he is persuaded to cut himself loose from his loved ones and punch above his weight for the first time in his life.

New girlfriend Charlene (Amy Adams), who works in a local bar, encourages Micky to follow his dreams, incurring the wrath of the rest of the Ward clan, who resent outsiders from interfering in family business.

Sure enough, Micky tastes victory and as his confidence grows, he faces the possibility of a shot at the world light welterweight title.

The Fighter is well crafted by director David O Russell, juxtaposing Micky's struggle for self-belief and self-respect with his unwavering love for his selfish and self-destructive family.

Wahlberg's non-performance is virtually mute next to Bale and Leo in full scenery-chewing flow, who compete for honours as the loudest caricature on the Ward family tree.

Thankfully, Adams brings nuances to her ballsy barmaid, who will literally slug it out for her man.

The Fighter punches to win with directorial flair but in a brawl with *Raging Bull*, *Rocky* or *Million Dollar Baby*, O'Russell's film would be knocked out in the final round.

A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN (12A)

IN 1992, Goldie Hawn clashed with Meryl Streep for Bruce Willis's affections in the black comedy *Death Becomes Her*.

Now death becomes her Oscar-nominated daughter, Kate Hudson, in Nicole Kidman's emotionally manipulative weepie.

Terminal illness provides the seemingly unassailable obstacle between the film's spirited heroine and true love, feverishly plucking our heartstrings as we watch a vivacious high-flyer wither into a bedridden young woman teetering on the brink of death.

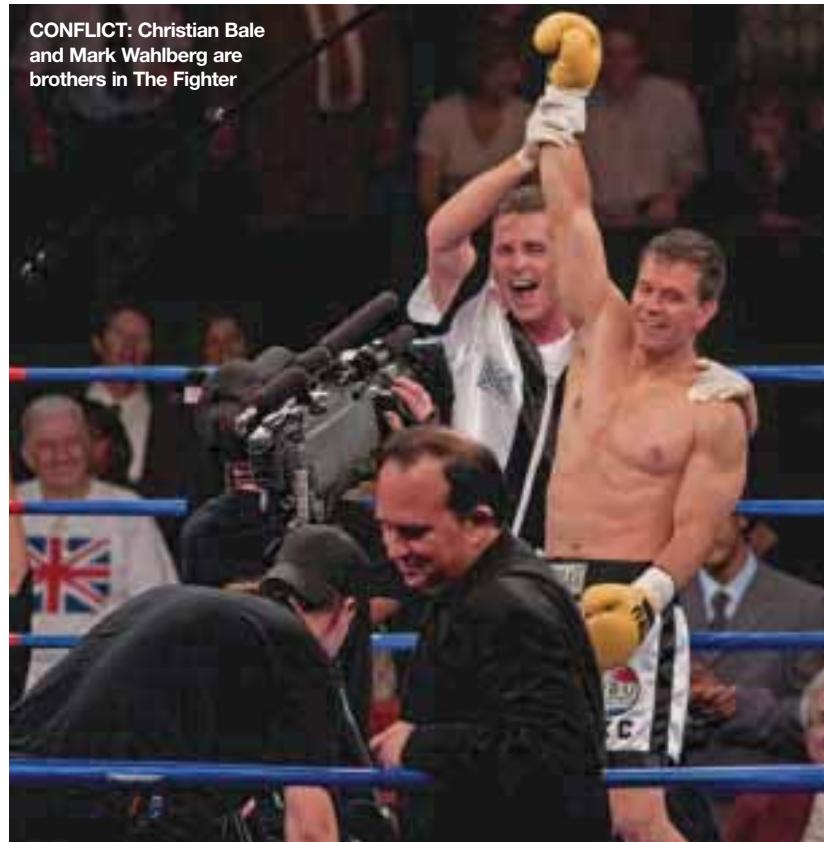
Only the coldest and stoniest hearts will resist the urge to shed a few tears.

Marley Corbett (Hudson) is full of energy and surrounded by great friends and has everything to live for – except that she doesn't.

A routine check up at the local hospital reveals shocking news: she has cancer and the disease has spread too far for chemotherapy to have any positive effect.

Supported by handsome doctor, Julian Goldstein, Marley comes to terms with impending death, sharing the diagnosis with her clucky mother and emotionally distant father. Thankfully, Julian is a tower of strength and as Marley prepares for her passing, she falls hopelessly in love with him.

CONFlict: Christian Bale and Mark Wahlberg are brothers in *The Fighter*



A Little Bit of Heaven reduces most of the audience to snivelling wrecks, orchestrating the goodbyes and reconciliations in quick succession to ensure that Marley shifts her mortal coil with her affairs in order.

Hudson is well cast. She is naturally outgoing and bubbly, so there is a sobering contrast between her character at different stages of the disease.

However, she shares an inert screen chemistry with her leading man, who doesn't convince for a second as a medic.

There are some strong performances topped off with a couple of scenes for Whoopi Goldberg as God, or at least how Marley chooses to see the Higher Power.

That's what repeatedly watching *Ghost* on DVD will get you.

SANCTUM 3D (15)

INSPIRED by true events, which were presumably far more thrilling than anything in Alister Grierson's waterlogged film, *Sanctum* charts the ordeal of a group of cave divers trapped below ground during a freak storm.

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IRISH ROVERS: The Dubliners are coming to Kent

What you see is what you get with legends of the folk scene

ED HILL meets Irish stalwarts The Dubliners

Review

THE Dubliners have been on the road for nearly 50 years, which is an amazing feat for a band whose origins began as an informal get together at O'Donoghue's Pub in their home city.

The line-up may have changed but that relaxed ethos has remained the same.

John Sheahan joined in 1964 and has been a stalwart of the group ever since. He, along with the latest incarnation of the band, will be performing at Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre in March, as part of a European tour.

"When I first started I still had a day job and sneaked off to do gigs at night," he explains. "I worked as a draftsman for the electricity supply board. When I decided to go full time I thought it would just last for two or three years, after that I would get my old job back. I certainly never thought it would mean nearly half a century on the road."

John was encouraged at school to learn the home-grown melodies.

He said: "We had a wonderful teacher who played the tin whistle and got a few of us interested. That was my first introduction to music.

I then went on to study the violin at the school of music for four or five years."

The Dubliners became trailblazers for spreading the popularity of Irish folk around the world. Their regular tours across Europe introduced it to cultures with their own traditions in music making. But John says it has elemental strengths that result in fans well beyond Ireland's shores.

He said: "It transcends barriers such as language. I think it generates an atmosphere and spirit that people just want to become involved in. The fast songs can be very rhythmic and uplifting and make people want to dance but then you have a complete contrast with the slow airs and the laments. It runs across the whole gamut of emotions."

That appeal is something other musicians have latched onto. Bands such as U2, Moving Hearts, and most famously The Pogues, with which the Dubliners shared their biggest hit – the Irish Rover in 1987 – have all acknowledged the influence they have had on their own music.

"It's nice to hear things like that but we had no idea as we went through the years that we were having that kind of impact," says John.

In the latest tour there will be many of the familiar tunes but new material is always being created, beginning with the lyrics.

John said: "We leave it up to the singers. If they have a new song we have a listen. We then try and work something around it. It

doesn't have to be a traditional song, it can be a new one put into our style."

The members of the group know each other so well rehearsal is rarely necessary but singer Séan Cannon keeps them on their toes.

John said: "We can have a gap of a month and just turn up at a gig and start playing without any chat beforehand, but I have to listen carefully to Séan. When he is centre stage anything could be coming next. It certainly helps your concentration when you don't know the key the next song might be in."

Handmade

And the Dubliners are still gaining new fans attracted by their authenticity.

John said: "I asked a little girl in Germany what she liked about us. She said I like the Dubliners because you do 'handmade' music. I suppose what you see on stage is what you get. It's just fiddles, banjos, guitars and tin whistles. There are no hidden synthesizers or effects. That basic approach seems to resonate with an audience."

"Our crowds are made up of people across the ages and from all sorts of backgrounds, as long as they can get out they'll come along."

And the solid tradition of music in Ireland is as strong as ever.

John said: "There's no sign of any decline, in fact the opposite. There is a great wealth of young musicians and the standard they play is really inspiring. I think people will always

need that direct approach of picking up an instrument and, without any accompaniment, coming out with a tune."

Touring has always been the main focus of the band despite steady record sales and the downside of modern travel.

"Long journeys on the road can be tiring but I never get tired of playing music. That is always a joy. Once you are on stage and you get the reaction from the audience you are away."

"A lot of pop groups used to tour to sell records but it has always been the main part of our living and livelihood."

And it's the band's informal friendship that has kept the Dubliners going all these years later, according to John: "We just go from year to year without any long term plan and there are no contractual pressures to stay together."

"We had a manager once who said we had to formalise things, so he got a solicitor to draw up a contract to bind us each to the band."

"This went on for a few days and we said for get about it, let's just carry on as we are and we tore it up. There has always been great camaraderie among the group. It's like an extended family and that makes for good music too."

• **The Dubliners are at the Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall on Saturday, March 19. Tickets start at £18 from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.**

ATTRACTI0NS

The fairer sex take to the playhouse

SET in the 1660s, Playhouse Creatures examines the plight of the first actresses to legally appear on stage – strutting their stuff in an old converted bearpit.

The bawdy tale is set in a time when it was considered women had 'no business in show business'.

April De Angelis' play focuses on the earthly underbelly of 17th

century actresses' lives, and the short journey from prostitute to actress and back.

Mrs Betterton is getting old and losing her looks, so she seeks to pass on her acting 'knowledge' to the younger Mrs Farley and Mrs Marshall. Then the pushy youngster, Nell Gwynne comes crashing into their world, determined to

work her way up from orange-seller to actress.

Playhouse Creatures is produced by Black Ram Theatre and will be at the Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Friday, February 11, at 8pm. Tickets are £12 or £10 for concessions, call the box office on 01892 678678 or see www.trinitytheatre.net.



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HENRY VIII is returning to his old stomping ground of Leeds Castle to meet visitors.

During half term, February 19-27, the king will be entertaining younger visitors to the castle with tales about the darker side of life and grime in Tudor Britain.

Life for the poor in Tudor times was difficult. When the harvest failed it was tempting to steal food – at the risk of public flogging or being hanged.

Henry VIII is probably the most recognised and feared of the Tudor kings. During his 38-year reign, he had more than 70,000 people executed.

There will be fun and educational tales from Henry VIII in a heated marquee near the maze. Stories are based on historical facts and also include lots of fun for all the family. Show times are 11am, 1pm and 2.30pm daily lasting for approximately 45 minutes.

There is an additional charge of £1 per child to the marquee, shows are aimed at all children of school age.

Key to the Castle tickets cost £17.50 for adults; £15 for seniors and visitors with disabilities (carer goes free); £10 for children (under-4s free). Tickets are valid for 12 months so you can pay once and visit all year round.

Leeds Castle is located near Maidstone, just off Junction 8 of the M20. Grounds open at 10am daily and the castle is open from 10.30am. Last admission is 3pm and gates close at 5pm.

See www.leeds-castle.com or call 01622 765400 for more details.

FORMER British Army chief, General Lord Dannatt will be giving a special talk about his career and signing copies of his new book, *Cutting Edge*.

He will be at Burrswood Christian Hospital in Groombridge on Thursday, February 24, where he will deliver a talk – *A Look Back, A Look Forward, Reflections on 40 Years as a Soldier*.

Lord Dannatt is a patron of Burrswood and will form the main attraction at a day to raise much-needed donations for the Access to Care Fund, which is available so all those in need of Burrswood's care are able to receive it, regardless of ability to pay.

Burrswood specialises in step-down medical and post-surgical care and other rehabilitation and counselling. It pioneers the holistic approach of combining medical and nursing care with the Christian ministry.

The talk will be at 2.15pm at Burrswood, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9PY. Tickets cost £10. Call 01892 865982 or see www.burrswood.org.uk.

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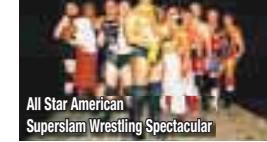
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Stirring up the laughs

By SARAH O'MEARA

WITH her mane of white, fluffy hair, loud voice and red Christian Louboutin heels, American chef Anne Burrell seems more rock 'n' roll than your average TV chef.

With a background in Italian cooking, she loves to laugh her head off in the kitchen while whipping up a three-course meal.

Burrell explains her style of foodie TV, now being broadcast for the first time on Food Network UK, is a little different to the "stand and stir" format of many food shows.

"I think I bring a fun perspective. I encourage people to be less uptight in the kitchen," says the 41-year-old.

It's true she seems utterly relaxed, giggling and laughing as she plunges her hands into bowls of meat to produce delicious-looking meatballs, while describing in a twangy East Coast drawl just how much fun she's having.

"I like to teach people why they do things, not just how, so they learn without knowing they're being taught."

On her show, *Secrets Of A Restaurant Chef*, Burrell reveals her concise, easy-to-master techniques of a top-level chef – skills which first came to the public's attention six years ago when she was asked by top chef Mario Batali to join him on *Iron Chef America* as one of his sous chefs.

The show, which is based on a Japanese cult programme and is a huge phenomenon in the States, puts chefs to the test. In each episode, they have one hour to cook and improvise a multi-course meal, and Burrell says the contestants' commitment is intense.



In her own show, Burrell's natural energy and happy-go-lucky demeanour bring basic dishes such as wild mushroom risotto to life, and she uses her own experience of high-end cooking at top restaurants in New York to help people translate their favourite restaurant experiences into amazing meals.

Currently focusing on filming new episodes while writing her first book, to be released in the spring, Burrell says she doesn't mind being manically busy. "I'm fortunate to have found a field that satisfies me so completely and I'm eager to spend more time in the UK," she says. "The first thing I do when I visit is have fish and chips and mushy peas, and then treacle pudding with toffee sauce. I'll then have dreams about the pudding."

"I've also had scotch eggs and meat pieces since I've been here. Oh my gosh..."

Burrell believes the key to great cooking is to relax: "Make sure you're in a place where you feel comfortable cooking. Food is like a dog, it smells fear."

• *Secrets Of A Restaurant Chef* is on Tuesdays on Food Network.



Review recipe

ANNE BURRELL'S GULF SHRIMP JAMBALAYA

(Serves 6-8)

900g medium gulf shrimp (prawns), peeled and deveined, shells reserved

Extra virgin olive oil

450g andouille sausage, cut into rounds

2 green peppers, seeded and diced

3 ribs celery, cut into half inch pieces

1 Spanish onion, peeled and diced

Sea salt

Pinch crushed red pepper

3 cloves garlic, smashed and finely chopped

800g tinned diced tomatoes

1tsp cayenne pepper

250g long-grain rice

2 fresh bay leaves

1 bundle fresh thyme

5 spring onions, white and green parts thinly sliced, for garnish

left longer. Strain the shells and discard.

Coat a large, wide pot with olive oil and bring to medium-high heat. Add the andouille and cook for 4 to 5 minutes, or until the sausage starts to brown.

Add the peppers, celery, and onion to the pan, season with salt and a pinch of crushed red pepper.

Cook for 7 to 8 minutes, or until the mixture has softened and is very aromatic. Toss in the garlic and cook for 2 to 3 more minutes.

Add the tomatoes and cayenne. Stir in the rice.

Add a litre of the shrimp stock, bay leaves, and thyme bundle. Season with salt and taste it to make sure you are on the way to something delicious.

Cover and cook over medium heat for 25 minutes.

Stir in the shrimp and cook for another 5 to 7 minutes or until the shrimp turn pink.

Serve garnished with the chopped spring onions.

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FOR the shrimp stock: toss the shrimp shells in a large pot and fill with water.

Bring the water to a boil, turn off the heat and let sit for at least 15 to 20 minutes, although it will be fine if it's

RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY MARIJKE COX

ON A cold Tuesday night in January most people would expect restaurants in even the busiest of towns to be a little thin on the ground in terms of diners.

So it was a welcome relief when after just 10 minutes of arriving to an empty Thailand Tom in Hythe the place started to fill – after all, no one likes to be the only customer – and by the time my dining companion and I left there was a real buzz about the place.

Tucked away on the town's high street you could be forgiven for missing it, but word seems to have spread since it opened last year and, judging by the familiarity of the staff with some of the customers, it has established what looks to be quite a local following.

The interior is contemporary and fresh with exposed wooden beams and bright white walls and mirrors. A friendly waiter showed us to a table before handing us our menus, which offered those Thai favourites at very reasonable prices.

Despite being a bit of a wimp when it comes to hot food (my definition of living life on the culinary spiciness edge is choosing a tikka masala over a korma) I decided to start with a soup even though – from previous experience which quite literally ended in tears – I knew they were renowned for being very hot.

But the Tom Kha soup with chicken (£3.50) was delicious and delivered just as much heat as I could handle. The flavour was fresh and tasty and, if anything, I could have eaten another bowlful.

My guest went for the Tom Yum soup with chicken (£3.50) which was packed with flavour and a must for anyone who enjoys spicy food.

On to the mains and I chose a massaman beef curry (£7.95) and coconut rice (£1.95) and my dining companion the ayam lamb (£12.50) – which was brought out on a sizzler and the sauce poured over the meat at the table – plus jasmine rice (£1.95).

The curry was full of spice and flavour and the melt-in-your-mouth beef was possibly some of the tastiest meat I had eaten for years. Topped with peanuts and combined with sticky coconut rice, this curry is now a firm Thai favourite for me.

My guest's ayam lamb was also fresh and delicious and after he had finished the beautifully tender lamb we both grabbed a spoon and scraped what was left of the sauce, which contained mint, garlic and wine mixed with spices, from the bottom of the sizzler dish.

Stuffed to the brim, we side-stepped desserts but sat back and enjoyed our drinks.

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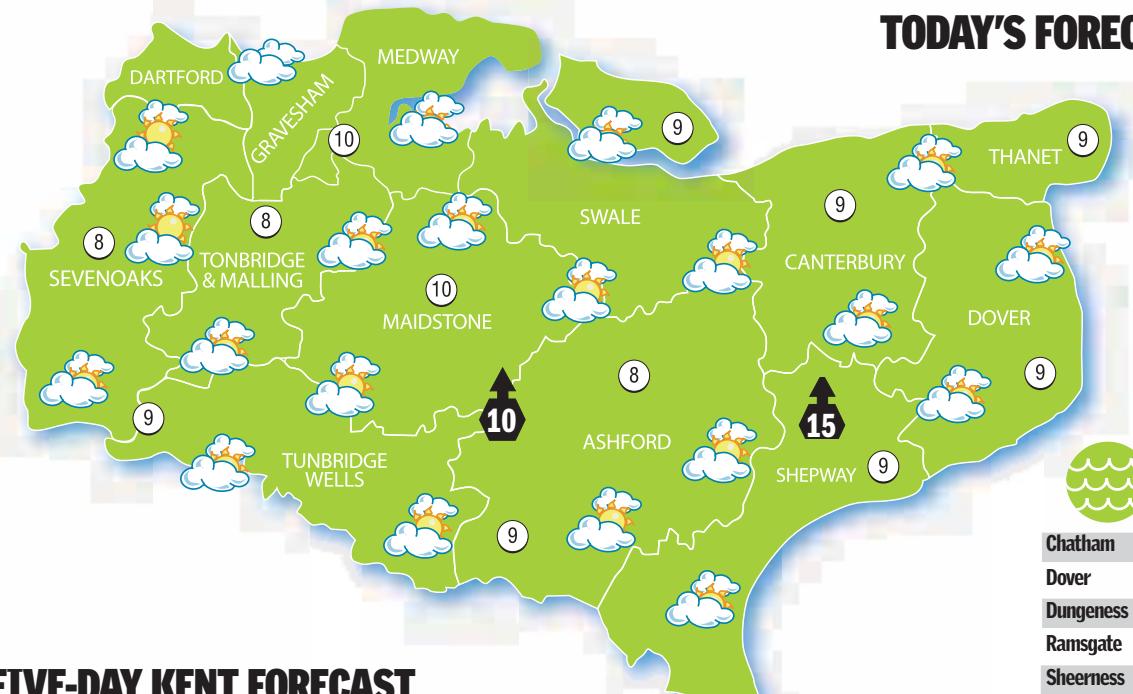
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| Barcelona | 13°C | Paris | 11°C |
| Beijing | 3°C | Rome | 15°C |
| Bombay | 31°C | Sydney | 21°C |
| Cape Town | 26°C | Tenerife | 20°C |
| Cardiff | 9°C | Tokyo | 13°C |
| Gibraltar | 15°C | Vancouver | 5°C |
| Hong Kong | 23°C | Warsaw | 7°C |
| Las Palmas | 20°C | Wellington | 15°C |

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| | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Ashford | 9°C | 10°C | 11°C | 11°C | 9°C |
| Canterbury | 8°C | 10°C | 10°C | 10°C | 8°C |
| Chatham | 7°C | 9°C | 10°C | 10°C | 8°C |
| Dartford | 10°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C |
| Dover | 8°C | 9°C | 9°C | 10°C | 8°C |
| Faversham | 7°C | 9°C | 10°C | 10°C | 8°C |
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| Maidstone | 10°C | 10°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C |
| Ramsgate | 8°C | 10°C | 10°C | 10°C | 8°C |
| Rochester | 7°C | 9°C | 10°C | 10°C | 8°C |

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| | | | | | | |
|------------|----------|--------|------|--------|--------|------|
| Chatham | Saturday | 6:40pm | 4.7m | Sunday | 7:09am | 4.7m |
| Dover | Saturday | 4:58pm | 5.2m | Sunday | 6:30pm | 5.1m |
| Dungeness | Saturday | 5:15pm | 5.9m | Sunday | 6:42pm | 5.8m |
| Ramsgate | Saturday | 5:28pm | 3.9m | Sunday | 6:06am | 3.9m |
| Sheerness | Saturday | 6:28pm | 4.6m | Sunday | 6:57am | 4.6m |
| Whitstable | Saturday | 6:26pm | 4.4m | Sunday | 6:53am | 4.4m |



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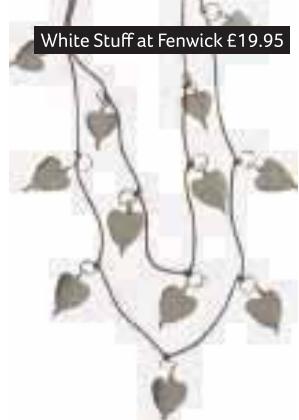
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Love fashion

Valentine's Day is the perfect excuse to look your absolute best, so here's some seasonal style advice from Whitefriars fashion writer, Laura Jones



You'll be able to wear your heart on your neck and your sleeve when you buy this necklace!

Hobbs £99



Whether you choose to go to a top notch restaurant, snuggle up in the cinema or have a cosy night in, Valentine's Day is the perfect excuse to look your absolute best... so hit the shops now for the big day!

Spring 2011 is destined to be the season of bright colours. Designers such as Marc Jacobs, Lanvin and Calvin Klein (who notoriously loves monochrome) have been styling their models in bright red. Cheryl Cole, Frankie Sandford and Rachel McAdams have been seen wearing scarlet jackets and dresses on the red carpet too. So when you go out to the shops and purchase an outfit in red for Valentine's Day, you'll be ultra-fashionable for the rest of the season too!

To make sure you rock this look, mix bold dresses with simple accessories and, to avoid looking OTT, incorporate this season's other big trend – neutral and cream tones. Subtle heart-shaped jewellery will look great and finish off your lovely look, whilst bows and polka dots will add a fun flourish to any outfit.

So if you want a knock-out dress or aspire to look effortlessly casual, Whitefriars Canterbury has the perfect clothes and accessories to showcase your beauty.



This underwear set would be a perfect present for Valentine's. Start dropping hints!

Ann Summers £38



This top is structured and will add a touch of sophistication to your casual outfit.

Next £35

This dress has beautiful detailing and pleating, which adds a fabulous feminine touch.

Monsoon £95



The bow and polka dot features on these courts are ultra-feminine. Get yours now!



This pretty clutch bag is understated but such a great find for a Valentine's Day date!



Jane Norman £40

Jeans give a casual twist to any style combo... perfect for a cinema date!



M&S £55

Cover up in style by wearing this waterfall jacket. It can be styled with jeans too!

style
guide

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gift
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Ernest Jones: Love's Embrace
sterling silver diamond triple
heart pendant £199



Beaverbrooks: platinum
diamond five stone ring £3500



Beaverbrooks: platinum diamond cluster
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H Samuel: 9ct gold glittering red
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Goldsmiths: 18ct white gold
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Ernest Jones: 9ct white gold
black and white diamond heart pendant £199



Goldsmiths: sterling silver and
diamond heart pendant £49



Mappin & Webb: left: sterling silver earrings
£175; right: sterling silver pendant £125



Exclusive to Goldsmiths: sterling silver Lovelinks
bracelet with three Valentine's charms £120

Goldsmiths: sterling silver heart bracelet £69





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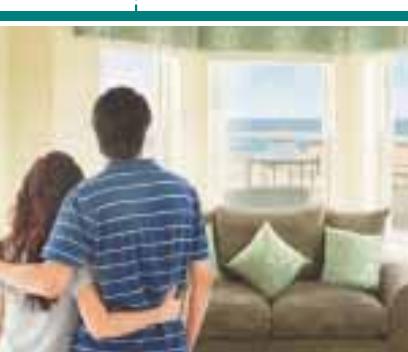
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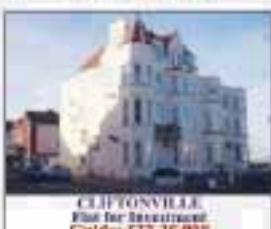
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DENISE young 50, likes cuddles, blonde hair, green eyes, GSoh, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine N/S male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382864

PETITE female, slim, attractive, easygoing, seeks male. Rochester 381574

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CHRISSEY 55, N/S, 5ft 2ins, likes seaside, music, boot sales, iron age history, seeks genuine, reliable, N/S male, 50-60 for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358069

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KATHY 62, slim, loving, caring, GSoh, lonely, no one knows I am out there, please call, looking for male late 50's. Canterbury Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380112

STEVE 6ft 2ins, well built, dark hair, blue eyes, likes the outdoor life, good food/wine, seeks similar honest fun female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357949

MALE seeks female, 62-65 for friendship, maybe more. Herne Bay. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383474

JEFFERY 52, white, 6ft 2ins, medium build, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, seeks single, genuine black female for 1-2-1 relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348663

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adventurous. Croydon. Tel No:

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RAMSGATE male, 5ft 5ins, young

0's, caring, likes travel, country-

side, seeks slim-medium build,

attractive, soul mate for LTR. Tel No:

0906 515 7112 Box No: 383426

ATTRACTION male, 6ft, seeks

sweet, seductive lady for hassle

free LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342829

KEITH 57, tall, likes bowling, para-

normal, seeks kind, honest, loyal

female for friendship, maybe more.

Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357297

SEAN 42, no ties, loving, affection-

ate, romantic, lots of TLC, seeks

someone special. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357195



44YR old guy 5ft 10ins, medium

build, blue eyes, likes music, con-

certs, cinema, meals out, seeks

female for romance leading to LTR.

Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357679

WHITE male, 52, 6ft, medium

build, blue eyes, likes music, con-

certs, cinema, meals out, seeks

female for romance leading to LTR.

Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357207

ANDREW 59, seeks similar aged

male for friendship and LTR. Tel No:

0906 515 7112 Box No: 357261

MALE 53, good looking, seeks

female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357127

GOOD natured 50y old male

Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent



National Trust offers trainees vital experience

THE National Trust is offering six-month work placements for unemployed young people at the former Kent home of Winston Churchill.

Since March last year, Chartwell in Westerham, near Sevenoaks, has taken on four trainees, who have become fully immersed in all areas of the estate's work, including gardening, website design and exhibition planning.

And while the scheme will come to an end next month, the National Trust will be taking on new trainees before the end of the spring.

One of those to have benefited is Jonathon Primmer, who is now working with the conservation team as well as researching for a new exhibition at Chartwell.

He said: "I was looking for any relevant employment to get my foot in the door, and I stumbled upon this trainee position.

"It has exceeded all expectations, providing me with training and practical, work-related experience so important to employers.

"I now see it as a vital part of my future employability."

Early last year, the National Trust embarked on the Future Jobs Fund scheme in conjunction with the Department of Work and Pensions, whereby a number of the trust's properties would take on young people aged 18-24 who have been out of work for more than six months.

The trust hopes the scheme will provide young employees with training and experience to better their chances of getting work.

Senior administrator Susan Rattray said: "We hope young people will see these posts as an opportunity to boost their skills in a unique environment."

Email sue.rattray@nationaltrust.org.uk or visit your local job centre for more information.

Employers urged to support apprentices

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

EMPLOYERS throughout Kent are being encouraged to show their support for the workforce of tomorrow as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

Running from Monday to Friday, the programme aims to highlight the talents and skills young people can bring to an organisation, and also to celebrate the value of apprenticeships.

Applications are also now open for the National Apprenticeship Awards, which are open to all organisations that employ apprentices, as well as to the apprentices themselves.

Rachel McKellar – South East regional director for the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) – said: "I would urge all South East employers and apprentices to enter this year's awards.

"They recognise and reward employers and apprentices, and provide an opportunity to showcase their achievements on a regional and national basis.

"Every year it's breathtaking to see firsthand how these inspirational apprentices are making such a positive impact on their employers and on the local community."

Last year, 20-year-old retail management apprentice Holly Manley, from Dartford, was named National Apprentice of the Year.

The NAS says Holly is a shining example of how apprenticeships provide training to expand career horizons, having been promoted from supervisor to store manager at Superdrug in a matter of months.

She said: "Winning the National Apprentice of the Year 2010 has opened a lot of doors for me. It's amazing to be selected from all the apprentices nationwide, and such a boost to know that all your hard work is being recognised."

For this year's awards the NAS will be listing England's top 100 apprenticeship



VITAL TRAINING: Hairdressing apprentices get expert advice at Canterbury College

employers, as well as giving separate awards for the small, medium, large and macro employers of the year.

Entries close on March 25. Visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk/awards for more information.

Meanwhile, several Kent training providers are holding activities to help promote National Apprenticeship Week.

Canterbury College is hosting an interactive exhibition at Whitefriars in the city centre from Tuesday to Friday, covering a wide variety of courses on offer. These include childcare, accounting, and plumbing.

Student demonstrations will be held, with interest welcome from potential students, schools, parents and businesses.

MidKent College is holding an employer event promoting apprenticeships to local small and medium enterprises, as well as two open evenings for school leavers and those already in employment to discuss how

to get on to an apprenticeship.

Finally, the Medway branch of Connexions – the Medway Youth Trust – will hold an open morning on Wednesday to advise young people on what apprenticeships are available, how much money they can expect to earn and more.

Visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk for more information.

WHAT is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Is it running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are its employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or is it funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

Send your good news stories to steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817136.



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Battle of bands could lead to music career

A COUNTY-wide 'battle of the bands' competition is being held to promote training and potential careers in the recording industry.

The Music Clash '11 contest is being run by Kent County Council and sponsored by Canterbury Christ Church University's Broadstairs campus, with support from Kent Music and the charity Rhythmix.

Winners will spend a day at the university's recording studios, where an expert sound technician will add some professional polish to their work.

They will also receive tips for succeeding in the music industry during a master class led by one of the professionals who teach at the campus.

Campus director Dr Andrew Gower said: "We're delighted to be sponsoring this important event and supporting Kent's young musical talent.

"The university is keen to encourage musical interest and talent at all ages, and

we hope the experience of taking part in events like Music Clash will encourage our county's talented young musicians to take up opportunities for study – whatever their musical taste, style or background."

Young musicians from all genres are invited to upload a short video of an original piece of work to www.musicclash.kent.gov.uk, which will then be rated by the public over the next two months.

The top five entries will also win the chance to perform their songs at a live gig which will be filmed for the internet.

Clr Roger Gough, Kent County Council's cabinet member for corporate support services, said: "This is a fantastic chance for all young people to get involved in Kent's thriving music scene.

All participants will get great exposure and the winners will receive a real boost to their careers with insider knowledge from experts at Canterbury Christ Church University's Broadstairs campus."

Creating the light fantastic

DISADVANTAGED youngsters from Canterbury helped to create a 'light graffiti' exhibition, organised by the University for the Creative Arts (UCA).

The LightTAG project offered workshops throughout the South East, where participants were taught how coloured LED lights can create light drawings and animations through an innovative camera technique.

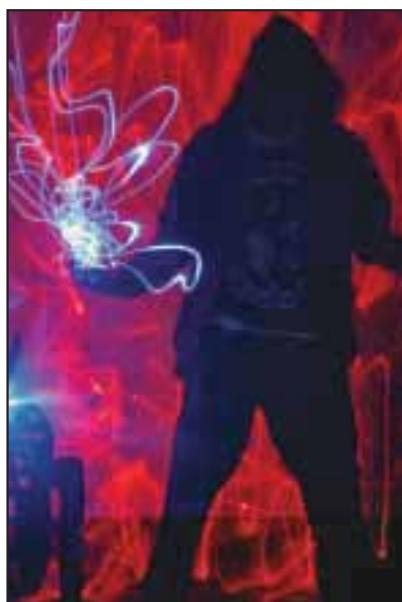
A launch event will be held at London's BFI on Friday, followed by a tour of galleries in the South East.

UCA visual artist Tine Bech said: "LightTAG has been a fantastic experience for everybody involved.

"The young people who participated have created a really visually engaging project.

"One of the project goals is to show youth culture in a positive light and increase the visibility of young people's voices, which I think we've achieved.

"We often forget that universities don't just award degrees, but connect with communities, with businesses and, in this case, with young people."



ILLUMINATING: Camera technique helped youngsters create 'light graffiti' and art

Skills course at Connexions

CONNEXIONS has been awarded the contract to deliver the Prince's Trust Team Programme in Kent.

The 12-week scheme is open to young people aged 16-24, who are currently looking to develop their confidence, learn new skills and get into work.

Courses are now available in Dover, Swale and Maidstone.

Chief executive Sean Kearns said: "The Team Programme has an excellent track record in helping people move into jobs, training or education, and we are delighted

to be working with the Prince's Trust and Mid Kent College on this programme.

"The course offers an exciting challenge to those wanting to develop their skills and gain a nationally-recognised qualification."

The programme consists of a residential week, community project, CV writing and interview skills, work placements, fundraising and other practical experiences.

The course is free and will not affect those receiving jobseekers' allowance.

See www.connexionskentandmedway.co.uk or call 01622 683155 for more information.

Apprenticeship Week

7-11 February 2011



Summary of events in Thanet:

Monday 7th February

- Launch of Training Solutions Facebook site
- College Apprenticeship Graduation event

Tuesday 8th February

- Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'.

Wednesday 9th February

- Principal Graham Razey - live interview on Academy FM at 11.15am
- Drop-in session about Apprenticeships - College Library 12 midday until 5.00pm

Thursday 10th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm

Friday 11th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm
- Thanet College hosting the Coastal College Consortium for the 'Employer Engagement Task Group'

Saturday 12th February

- Apprenticeship Bus will be at Westwood Cross from 8.30am-6.00pm.
- Launch of a range of new Thanet College Apprenticeship programmes



Events run by Training Solutions
At Work - Through Work - For Work
01643 605032 / training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk



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MidKent College's dedicated training consultancy provides a professional service that is dedicated to the needs of local companies. Training courses can be delivered in-company or in the first class facilities available at the College.

Subject areas available include:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
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| > Commercial & Business | > Hospitality |
| > Construction Crafts | > ICT |
| > Education | > Logistics |
| > Electrical | > Management |
| > Floristry | > Office Skills |
| > Health & Safety | > Plumbing |
| > Health & Social Care | > Security |

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone
for more information.

01634 402020



MidKent College
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- Administration, Secretarial, PA
- Agriculture, Forestry, Environment
- Art and Design
- Catering, Hospitality
- Construction, Architecture, Surveyors
- Customer Service, Call Centre
- Domestic

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- Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities
- Estate Agency, Property
- Graduate, Trainees
- Health and Safety, Security, Defence
- HR, Recruitment
- Industrial, Warehouse, Factory
- IT, Internet, Telecoms

- Insurance, Banking, Finance
- Legal
- Leisure, Tourism, Travel
- Management Consultancy
- Management, Senior Positions
- Marketing, Advertising
- Motor Trade, Driver
- Not for Profit, Charities

- Nursing, Medicine, Care Work
- Other
- Print, Packaging, Distribution
- PR, Media, Journalism
- Public Sector, Social Services
- Retail, Wholesale, Sales
- Scientific and Pharmaceutical, Research
- Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Operations Manager (Part Time)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE COMMUNITY

We are looking to recruit a part time Operations Manager for our office based in Ashford, Kent.

Ashford Mediation Service, a registered charity, plays a vital role in the community helping people to resolve conflict situations. We are looking for an individual who will be able to maintain a high standard of service delivery and is able to identify and maximise commercial opportunities for sustainable business growth.

Working knowledge of mediation is preferred but not essential. You will have management, marketing and business development skills and experience of managing and motivating volunteers.

Salary for the post is pro rata £28,860 p.a. You will be required to work 24 hours per week. Some evening work may be required. Driving license is essential. This post is subject to a Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure Check.

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity please send your C.V. with a covering letter to: PO Box 482, Ashford, Kent. TN23 9PY

Closing date is Friday 18th February 2011



Coastal Services Division

The Coastal Services Division of Gardline Environmental Ltd provides a variety of survey and windfarm services and specialist vessels for contracts and charters. These include Windfarm Turbine Transfers, Hydrographic Surveys and Guard Boat duties. Due to the award of some major long-term contracts across the UK, we are seeking persons suitable for the following positions:

SKIPPERS

The ideal candidate must possess previous experience at sea on 10m to 20m vessels, using a variety of propulsion methods. As a minimum, an RYA Powerboat Level 2 Certificate and an ENG-1 medical certificate are required. A VHF, First Aid and sea survival certificates would be an advantage as would experience of training support staff in boat operations. We have several experienced support staff as well as those beginning their careers at sea, so your ability to encourage and guide is important.

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate their boat handling skills, leadership qualities and problem solving abilities. Your calmness, confidence and initiative will be key to your success as one of our skippers within our team.

ABLE SEAMEN

In this role we are looking for individuals who have commercial and or leisure boat experience in an all-round support role. Your positive attitude and approach to the work and practical learning will be key to your success and progression. You must be someone who can accurately follow instructions and take responsibility for given tasks, working closely with and providing support to the Skipper regarding all aspects of vessel operations.

Working for Coastal Services, is physically demanding and will require nationwide travel and periods of time away at sea. We do operate on rotations appropriate to contract, usually 16 days on (including travel) and 14 days off, but for ALL the above roles you will need to be flexible and willing to work outside the core business hours on occasions. Ideally we are looking to recruit people from the localities of our contracts, but this is not essential.

If you are interested in working with us, please send your CV and Cover Letter via e-mail detailing your experience, skills and qualifications along with your availability to Allan Tucker, Project Manager at allan.tucker@gardline.com

Closing date: Thursday 10th February 2011

All Seasons donates 100% of the surplus profit to, and works in partnership with, registered charity Kent Enterprise Trust.



Looking for a new challenge?

Why not make a difference to someone's life and work with us as a community care worker?

Experience **NOT** required but passion is essential.

Visit www.allseasons.org.uk or call **01227 265 899** for more information.

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- free CRB
- free uniform
- childcare vouchers.



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Based Brandshatch Place Hotel | £18k

Responsible for all HR administration for a designated group of properties, your duties will include setting up and updating personnel records in line with audit and data protection requirements, as well as administering the employee benefits system and assisting with recruitment of new staff members.

We are seeking a confident, pro-active and highly organised individual with excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office to deliver a first-class HR admin service.

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Maternity cover | Based Sevenoaks | £17.5k

Working as part of a busy, friendly team, you will provide ledger and accounting support to both our head office and individual hotels, including supervising bought and sales ledgers, cash book reconciliations and assisting with month end procedures. Data reporting on a daily, weekly and monthly basis will also form part of your role.

You will have strong numeric skills, good Excel knowledge and demonstrate excellent attention to detail. Previous knowledge of Opera and Sage is desirable.

Please apply with CV and covering letter with current salary details to: Keely Dobinson at kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk

Closing date: 11th February 2011.

www.handpicked.co.uk



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01304 813333

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We look after people with Learning Difficulties and who may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the following

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- **Waking Night Staff**

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Loring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ES
Tel: 020 8302 9302 Email: colin@oakfields.net

Assistant Manager

Required For Residential Care Home in Folkestone

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call **Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager)** on **01303 254019** for further details or email CV to cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

Flexi Day Care Assistants

Required For Residential Care Home in Folkestone

We are looking to recruit staff with relevant experience and a minimum of NVQ level 2. Experience caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call **Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager)** on **01303 254019** for further details or email CV to cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

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Deputy Manager



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Exciting role for development - Deputy Manager Role at Local Care Home group. The role is within an EMI Care home for the elderly. The role is to develop alongside the Clinical Manager and existing Deputy Manager with the view to gaining experience to gain a more senior position in the future. The role is for a person who wants a challenge and further their career in care. Has to have experience in working in a supervisory or co-ordinator role with care staff, awareness of Dementia and NVQ Level3. CV on submission and references required at point of acceptance. CRB will be carried out.

To apply please send your CV to: adam@belmontsandbanks.co.uk
Visit our website: www.belmontsandbanks.co.uk

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Must want to work to the highest possible standards, experience of caring for adults or children is desirable. You should be available for work mornings or evenings and alternate weekends and must have own transport. You will ideally have a relevant qualification or be prepared to work towards one. Uniform provided. £7.00 per hour weekdays £8.30 per hour Saturdays & Sundays. Mileage paid @ 30pence per mile.

Please telephone 01843 570638 or 01227 206473; or email Canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk for an application pack stating which post you wish to apply for.

Community Researchers

Salary: £8.50 per hour

Do you have excellent people and communication skills; the confidence and ability to work independently; extensive knowledge of the local area and orchard farming community and; a clean driving licence and access to own transportation?

The Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM) is a major independent centre of scientific excellence in the fields of occupational and environmental health, hygiene and safety. We are looking to recruit 2 individuals to assist with recruitment and liaise with participants in a scientific study of pesticide use in the surrounding areas of Canterbury / Maidstone. The study will include both orchard farmers and residents as part of its investigation.

The successful candidate will receive full training on the study and will be paid £8.50 hourly for time worked. Working hours will be flexible and subject to project needs and negotiation. IOM will cover all travel and expenses associated with the project.

For further information regarding the role please visit our website www.iom-world.org/recruitment

Closing date for applications is 18 February 2011. Interviews will be held on 4 March 2011.



TRADE SALES MANAGER

To be responsible for the running of our busy Trade Sales Office including processing orders, preparation of orders for production, collating deliveries, customer liaison and credit control. Good keyboard skills, a mature outlook to problem solving and ability to work on own initiative under pressure required.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Closing date – 18th February 2011.

*Please apply in writing with a CV to
Ron Twyman,
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or by e-mail to ron@piperwindows.co.uk.*



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You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

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Media experience is not essential as full training will be given.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

Sales Manager

The Sales Manager will play a lead role in developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of client relationship management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, securing new revenue, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with excellent sales skills, a self starter; highly motivated and will have excellent verbal and written communication ability. You will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and knowledge of the Kent marketplace would be useful.

Media Sales Executives Tunbridge Wells

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Telephone Sales Executives x2 Ashford

You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products.

Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships.

Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured and positive manner. Your might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be an excellent starting point.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

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Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk



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The Folkestone
academy



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HOUSE GUIDANCE & CARE MANAGER

Kent Scheme band 7 point 20 (within the range of 20 – 24)

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Term time only plus 5 INSET days (which equates to £19,870 pa)

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We seek to appoint a Guidance Manager who will share our dedication and commitment to positive discipline, care & guidance of young people and who will build strong working relationships with students and their families.

Full details and an application form are available from our website: www.folkestoneacademy.com Alternatively contact Sally Taylor on 01303 842400 or via email: sally.taylor@folkestoneacademy.com

Closing date: 10 February 2011 at 5.00pm

The Folkestone Academy is committed to the safeguarding of children and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau. The Academy is an equal opportunities employer.

The Folkestone Academy, Academy Lane, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5FP
Tel: 01303 842400 ?Email: admin@folkestoneacademy.com



St. Lawrence College

CALLING ALL NURSES

*Are you thinking about returning to work?
Do you have up to date clinical skills?*

Then talk to us as we now have a vacancy in our professional Medical Care Team based here at the College.

St Lawrence College is a co- educational Independent School based in heart of Ramsgate and set within 40 acres of Grounds.

We require a trained Nurse with experience of minor injuries and ideally some immunization / pastoral care / counselling skills & health promotion, to work part time in our School's established medical centre. You will be working with Children from the ages of 3 to 18 years of age.

The hours of work are: 15 per week worked on Mondays, Tuesday & Thursdays 15.30 – 20.30 hours & every third Sunday for on call duties. This is a Term Time position only working for 34 weeks of the year and would ideally suit someone local to the School.

St Lawrence College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members of staff & volunteers to share this commitment. Appointments are subject to an enhanced CRB Clearance and satisfactory references being obtained.

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and welcome applicants from all groups and communities.

Closing date for applications: 18th February 2011

Please send your completed application and covering letter together with your current salary level to:

The Human Resources Manager, St Lawrence College
College Road, Ramsgate, Kent. CT11 7AE
Or apply at: vacancies@slcuk.com
www.slc-uk.com

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- A good working knowledge of Sage
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work as part of a team and to play a key role in this growing company
- Self motivated and organised
- At least two years' experience in a similar position

The Kindergartens are a family run group of successful and well established nursery schools situated in Central London

A competitive salary and conditions are offered

For further details and a full description of the post please email: nicky.peckham@thekindergartens.co.uk

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

www.thekindergartens.com

Teachers Needed Primary, Secondary and SEN

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✓ Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- ✓ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- ✓ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✓ Free use of resource centre
- ✓ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on: **0800 731 6871** or email enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

CAPITA
EDUCATION RESOURCING
(Agy)

Committed to equal opportunities

Calling all Teachers & Cover Supervisors

Primary, Secondary and SEN Education

Our professional team can offer:

- Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- Free in-service training and CPD Courses
- An out-of-hours service 24/7

Whether you require daily, short term, long term or permanent roles across Kent and the SE we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us on: **0845 450 1496** or email: kentteam@tltp.co.uk

TLTP Education



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

HEAD OF BUSINESS RELATIONS

Salary Scale: Basic salary £35k. Target achievement £40k and additional incentive payments up to £10k for 37 hours per week, all year

The college is looking to recruit a Head of Business Relations to manage a portfolio of existing customers and attract new customers through excellent customer service, sales and effective account management in line with the College business targets and service level agreements.

Job reference: HBR001

PROGRAMME LEADER IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Salary Scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week, all year

The college is looking to recruit a Programme Leader in Health and Social Care to ensure a well-organised high quality course or study programme that effectively meets the needs of the students.

The main duties of this role include teaching, tutorial work, curriculum development and planning and to lead a team of staff including coordinating the delivery of courses within the Health and Social Care programme area.

Job reference: PL&S001

Closing date: 16 February 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

Additional Support Tutor

The college is looking to recruit an Additional Support Tutor to be responsible for the support service for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition and Language and Communication needs.

Salary Scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week, all year

Closing date: 9 February 2011

Interview date: 28 February 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.

Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: AST001

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



Find a job online



JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County



THANET COLLEGE

"Raising Aspirations, Developing Skills, Delivering Quality"

Do you have what it takes to be a College Governor?

Thanet College continues to build on the success and achievement of its students in a wide range of vocational courses, specialising in areas such as art and design, music, media and performance, engineering and technology, hospitality, care and business.

College Governors are members of the wide community served by the College who volunteer their senior level experience and skills for public benefit. They are responsible for the educational character and mission of the College, for the proper use of its resources and for safeguarding its assets. Governors are committed to the value of lifelong learning, the promotion of equal opportunities and maintaining standards.

We have a vacancy for a Governor serving on our Governing Body and Audit Committee. The successful applicant should have broad managerial experience and knowledge of organisations at a senior level and be conversant with financial procedures and/or audit processes.

Please apply in writing to:

Nicky Stevenson

Deputy Clerk

Thanet College

Ramsgate Road

Broadstairs

Kent CT10 1PN

The closing date for applicants is Monday 14th February 2011.

Please note: Previous applicants need not apply

Thanet College is committed to Equal Opportunities.

JobsforKent.co.uk

Accountancy

Accounts Assistant

Sevenoaks

Salary Negotiable

Hand Picked Hotels is a collection of 17 luxury country house hotels throughout the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. Accounts Assistant Maternity cover 1 Based Sevenoaks 1 £17.5kWorking as part of a busy, friendly team, you will provide ledger and accounting support to both our head office and individual hotels, including supervising bought and sales ledgers, cash book reconciliations and assisting with month end procedures. Data reporting on a daily, weekly and monthly basis will also form part of your role. You will have strong numeric skills, good Excel knowledge and demonstrate excellent attention to detail. Previous knowledge of Opera and Sage is desirable. Please apply with CV and covering letter with current salary details to: Keely Dobinson at kdobinson@handpicked.co.ukClosing date: 11th February 2011. www.handpicked.co.uk

To apply/more information:
Hand Picked Hotels
kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Child Care

Cover Supervisors

All over Kent

Salary Negotiable

Calling all Teachers; Cover SupervisorsPrimary, Secondary and SEN Education Our professional team can offer: • Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities • Excellent rates of pay - paid weekly • Free in-service training and CPD Courses • An out-of-hours service 24/7 Whether you require daily, short term, long term or permanent roles across Kent and the SEwe would love to hear from you. To find out more information and to register with us, please call us on: 0845 450 1496 or email: kteam@btconnect.com

To apply/more information:

Theme Events
sjsainsbury@btconnect.com

London Teaching Pool Ltd

keiteam@ltp.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teachers

All Kent

Salary Negotiable

Calling all Teachers; Cover SupervisorsPrimary, Secondary and SEN Education Our professional team can offer: • Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities • Excellent rates of pay - paid weekly • Free in-service training and CPD Courses • An out-of-hours service 24/7 Whether you require daily, short term, long term or permanent roles across Kent and the SEwe would love to hear from you. To find out more information and to register with us, please call us on: 0845 450 1496 or email: kteam@btconnect.com

To apply/more information:

London Teaching Pool Ltd

keiteam@ltp.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Customer Service, Call Centre

Telesales

Maidstone

Salary Negotiable

Sparkle; Smile Returning to work?Looking for a new challenge?Salary up to £18,500 per annumFull Holiday entitlement Maidstone town centre locationBring your personality to work and let it work 4 u!Telesales based operation. Call 01622 662610 quoting REC500.

To apply/more information:

Theme Events

sjsainsbury@btconnect.com

Quoting Job Ref: REC500

HR, Recruitment

HR Administrator

Brands Hatch

Salary £16k

Hand Picked Hotels is a collection of 17 luxury country house hotels throughout the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. rBased

Brands Hatch Place Hotel |

£18kResponsible for all HR

administration for a designated

group of properties, your duties will

include setting up and updating

personnel records in line with

audit and data protection

requirements, as well as

administering the employee benefits

system and assisting with

recruitment of new staff

members. We are seeking a

confident, pro-active and highly

organised individual with excellent

knowledge of Microsoft Office to

deliver a first-class HR admin

service. Please apply with CV and

covering letter with current salary

details to: Keely Dobinson at

kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk

Closing date: 11th February 2011.

www.handpicked.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

College Governor

Thanet

Salary Volunteer

"Raising Aspirations, Developing Skills, Delivering Quality" Do you know what it takes to be a College Governor?Thanet College continues to build on the success and achievement of its students in a wide range of vocational courses, specialising in areas such as art and design, music, media and performance, engineering and technology, hospitality, care and business.

College Governors are members of the wide community served by the

College who volunteer their senior

level experience and skills for public

benefit. They are responsible for the

educational character and mission of

the College, for the proper use of its

resources and for safeguarding its

assets. Governors are committed

to the value of lifelong learning, the promotion of equal opportunities and maintaining standards. We have a

vacancy for a Governor serving on our Governing Body and Audit Committee.

The successful applicant should have broad managerial

experience and knowledge of

organisations at a senior level and

be conversant with financial

procedures and/or audit

processes. Please apply in writing to:

Nicky Stevenson Deputy Clerk

Thanet College

Ramsgate Road

Broadstairs

Kent CT10 1PN

closing date for applicants is

Monday 14th February 2011. Please

note: Previous applicants need not apply.

Thanet College is committed to Equal Opportunities.

Psychological Therapist

Ashford PTP

Salary £21,519 - £27,849 pro rata

Psychological Therapist - Fixed Term

for 6 months£21,519 - £27,849 pro rata

20.81 hours per

weekEssential Car User Allowance

up to £1,239based Ashford PTP KCA

(UK) Psychological Therapy Providers

(PTP) provides a wide range of high

quality, innovative primary care

mental health services. We offer a

strong departmental framework with

regular clinical supervision, line

management, monthly team

meetings and effective

administration, along with

opportunities for further training and

career development.

The Ashford PTP team requires a

psychological therapist to work in

close collaboration with colleagues

in a stepped care service. You will

work in surgeries based in the local

area and have a commitment to

improving access to psychological

therapies for people with depression

and anxiety. A strong interest in

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) would be an advantage. The team also delivers EMDR, Brief Dynamic Interpersonal Therapy for Depression (DIT), Couple Therapy for Depression (CDT) and eligibility and interest in these areas and Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression (IPT) will also be useful. The base is located in the Live It Well Centre, a multi-agency partnership taking referrals from both primary and secondary care. For an informal discussion about the post please contact Liz Hamlin, Clinical Manager IAPT on 01233 639383. Applications and job descriptions can be

downloaded from www.kca.org.uk.

You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk and select option three. Please quote ref: 738. Closing date: 15 February 2011. Interview date:

TBCKCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity no: 292824.

To apply/more information:

KCA (UK)

admin@kca.org.uk

Quoting Job Ref: 738

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Class 2 LGV Moffett Driver

Maidstone

Salary £9 - £10 Per Hour

LGV C / HGV C II Moffett Drivers required for on-going temporary work. All applicants must hold a current Moffett certificate as well as a digital tachograph card. Working Monday to Friday (days) up to 45 hours per week. PAYE or Limited Company Drivers welcome. Due to insurance, applicants must be at least 25 years old and have no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs). For further details please call Alex on 01622 664999.

To apply/more information:

Best Connection Agency (The)

maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: AH0001

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:

Name of Premises: **Turner Contemporary Gallery, Rendezvous, Margate**

Applicant: **Duncan Healey**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX



Highways – District of Sevenoaks

HEVER ROAD, EDENBRIDGE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Hever Road, Edenbridge from Philippines Close to outside Delaware Cottages.

The Order will become effective on 21st February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 26th February and last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: New House Farm Road, Lydens Lane, B2026 Hartfield Road and B2026 Mill Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electricity supply.

STATION ROAD, SHOREHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road, Shoreham 5m from the railway bridge.

The Order will become effective on 21st February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Church Street, Shoreham, Filston Lane, Shoreham, Twitton Lane, Oxtord, Pilgrims Way West, Oxtord, Station Road, Oxtord and Shoreham Road, Oxtord.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of 15m of service cable.

Highways – District of Shepway

RECTORY LANE, BROOKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of works to carry out tree-cutting and aerial cabling, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rectory Lane, Brookland, on or after 9 February 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Oldhouse Lane and King Street.

The alternative route is via Oldhouse Lane, Carter Lane and King Street.

The road will be closed between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day and re-opened outside these hours.

VARIOUS ROADS, ROMNEY MARSH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of bridge inspections, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Romney Marsh, on or after 14 February 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

Each road will be closed for 1 day, on or after the date shown, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

Wenham's Lane, Old Romney will be closed at Yoakes Bridge on 14 February 2011.

The alternative route is via Eighteen Acre Lane, A259 Rhee Wall, A2070, Ivychurch Road and Wenham's Lane.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Sathiyamoorthy Mathiaghagan of 137 Winlaton Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 5QA, has applied to Dover District Council for the grant of a new off-license application. Hours for sale of alcohol: Monday to Sunday 6am until 11pm, for the premises of Parks Convenience Store, situated at 10 Park Avenue, Deal, Kent CT14 9AL.

Full details of the application can be viewed at the offices of the Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover (www.dover.gov.uk).

Any person wishing to submit representations to my application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 23rd February 2011.

It is an offence for anyone knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with a Licence Application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.00.

To
advertise
in this
section



**01303
817040**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:

Name of Premises: **The Tithe Barn, Court Lodge Farm, Lenham, Maidstone**

Applicant: **Ms Valerie Woolven**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Vodafone Limited and Telefonica O2 (UK) Limited are to apply to Ashford Borough Council for planning consent to erect a new installation at:

Grass Verge, South side of Stanhope Road, opposite Crundale Close, Ashford, Kent, TN23 5RQ.

The proposed installation will be located on the grass verge on the south side of Stanhope Road, opposite Crundale Close (approximately 15 metres west of junction with access road into The John Wallis Church of England Academy).

If any person who believes and has evidence to support their belief that they have rights to the grass verge on Stanhope Road, please contact the person below:

Brian Phillips, GVA,10, Stratton Street, London W1J 8JR.
Tel: 0207 911 2114.
Email brian.phillips@gva.co.uk

Comments should be made in writing before 16th February 2011.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by John Wilkinson, Old Tree Lodge, Old Tree, Hoath, Canterbury to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address
Giles Adey, Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, ME14 1XX

Highways – District of Swale

HEARTS DELIGHT ROAD, TUNSTALL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hearts Delight Road, Tunstall, on or after 21 February 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 'The Oast'. There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Bredgar Road and Park Drive.

The alternative route is via Hearts Delight Road, Hearts Delight, Bannister Hill, Borden Lane, Riddles Road, Minterne Avenue, Bradley Drive, Park Drive and Tunstall Road.

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116 STOPPING UP OF LAND ADJACENT TO BYSING WOOD ROAD AND WESTERN LINK (B2045), FAVERSHAM

Notice is given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on 7 March 2011 at 11.30am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land adjacent to Bysing Wood Road and Western Link (B2045), Faversham as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Sessions, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Network Performance of Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

KATHERINE KERSWELL
GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR
County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX

For further information please
contact Kent Highway Services
on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or
visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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Driving

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www.activevehicles.co.uk
Telephone (01227) 281818



Orlando the ideal family trip

First Drive

by
MATT JOY

Chevrolet Orlando

YOU can't hide the fact that you will have to trade in that entertaining sports car or hot hatch of yours one day, for something a little more sensible.

Squeezing a child seat into the back of a Porsche 911 is deeply inconsiderate, though the thought of owning an MPV might give you sleepless nights.

But car manufacturers are perceptive in keeping up with our needs and wants, and Chevrolet has answered the above problem with the Orlando.

The rest of the Chevrolet range is a familiar sight in the UK now, and the quality of the product has been improving healthily with each new car. That bodes well for the Orlando (from £16,395), which not only has to cope with the quality of the opposition, but also the hard life that kids, dogs and life in general will throw at it.

It looks something of a cross between an SUV and a people carrier. The combination of big windows and an SUV-like height offers an excellent driving position.

Pushing buttons is no chore either, partly because the equipment level is good regardless of which model you choose but also because the cabin quality is the best yet to come from Chevrolet.

The design itself is smart, with a deliberate deep centre panel dividing the space

between the two front seat occupants. Higher spec models have tasteful piano-black trim and leather on the steering wheel, all of which help to push up the classy feel.

Of greater importance to a buyer in this segment however is space, and the Orlando is certainly not short of it.

Three rows of seats mean this is a seven-seater with ease, and even with the third row in place there is a respectable 89 litres of boot space on offer.

Drop to five seats and this goes up to a generous 727 litres, and a giant 1,487 with two rows folded.

Apart from space, equipment and good value the Orlando has other talents. For a start, the 2.0-litre diesel is exactly what you would expect from a good quality, modern unit. There is power easily accessible through much of the rev range, and the gearchange on the standard six-speed unit is slick.

But even more surprising than that is the way the Orlando responds to your inputs. The steering isn't mushy or vague, and the suspension being slightly firmer than you might expect means it won't loll around in corners either.

It has not become a hot hatch and it will still swallow bumps without upsetting everyone on board, but the fact that it will do as it is told rather than vaguely reinterpret your actions is a rare commodity in MPV-land.

It makes a difference, and difference is what this Orlando offers. There is a huge choice of seven-seaters out there for a range of budgets, but not every driver will be happy with a soulless box. Thankfully for those of you with a little more personality and a keen eye for a bargain, the Orlando has arrived.



Search online for your new car today
www.carsforkent.co.uk



For absolutely any make of car or commercial vehicle – we're the business!

Ex-Demonstrator SALE NOW ON



Ibiza

1.4 Sport 3-Door Hatchback 2010

from £9,295

on the road

was £12,570

now £9,295

save £3275



Altea 1.9 TDI S 5-Door Hatchback 2010

from £12,995

on the road

was £16,190

now £12,995

save £3195



Leon

1.9 TDI S 90PS 5-Door Hatchback 2010

from £11,795

on the road

was £15,590

now £11,795

save £3795



Exeo

ST 2.0 TDI SE CRDI 5-Door Estate 2010

was £22,265

now £16,995

save £5270

from £16,995

on the road

For illustration purposes only



PRE-LOVED SEATS FROM AS LITTLE AS....

SEAT

10 60 SEAT Exeo ST 2.0 TDI SE Tech 5-door Estate in Black Magic. 3,500 miles. Was: £23,160 **Now: £18,995** Save £4,165!
 10 10 SEAT Exeo ST 2.0 TDI SE CRDI 5-door Estate in Silver. 4,500 miles. Was: £22,265 **Now: £16,995** Save £5,270!
 10 60 SEAT Leon 1.6 TDI CR Emocion 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 1,500 miles. Was: £18,020 **Now: £14,895** Save £3,125!
 10 10 SEAT Altea 1.6 SE TDI CR Ecomotive 5-door MPV in Planeta Blue. 9,500 miles. Was: £18,980 **Now: £13,695** Save £5,285!
 10 60 SEAT Altea 1.9 TDI S 5-door Hatchback in Track Grey. 3,000 miles. Was: £16,190 **Now: £12,995** Save £3,195!
 10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDI S 90 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 2,500 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £12,795** Save £2,795!
 10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDI S 5-door Hatchback in Nayara Blue. 4,500 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £12,295** Save £3,295!
 10 10 SEAT Ibiza 1.6 TDI CR Sport 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 5,500 miles. Was: £15,000 **Now: £11,995** Save £3,005!
 10 10 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDI S 90PS 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 5,000 miles. Was: £15,590 **Now: £11,795** Save £3,795!
 10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic. 2,000 miles. Was: £13,495 **Now: £10,995** Save £2,500!
 10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 3,000 miles. Was: £13,495 **Now: £10,995** Save £2,500!
 10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Good Stuff 5-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 3,500 miles. Was: £13,095 **Now: £10,695** Save £2,400!

07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 FR TSi 200PS 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic. 34,500 miles. Was: £10,995 **Now: £10,495** Save £500!

10 60 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 2,000 miles. Was: £12,650 **Now: £10,395** Save £2,255!

07 57 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDI Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey Metallic. 29,000 miles. Was: £9,995 **Now: £9,495** Save £500!

10 10 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 4,000 miles. Was: £12,570 **Now: £9,295** Save £3,275!

08 58 SEAT Leon 1.6 Emocion 5-door Hatchback in Emocion Red. 10,000 miles. Was: £9,795 **Now: £9,295** Save £500!

08 58 SEAT Leon 1.6 Emocion 5-door Hatchback in Crono Yellow. 21,000 miles. Was: £9,495 **Now: £9,195** Save £300!

07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDI Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Black Magic Metallic. 37,500 miles. Was: £9,295 **Now: £8,995** Save £300!

08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16V SE 85PS 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. 17,500 miles. Was: £8,295

07 07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDI PD Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Luna Grey Metallic. 54,561 miles. Was: £7,995

08 58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-door Hatchback in Black. 19,000 miles. Was: £7,995

08 08 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sportrider 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey. 17,000 miles. Was: £6,895

07 56 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Stylance 3-door Hatchback in Luna Grey. Automatic 17,000 miles. Was: £5,795

Other makes

05 05 BMW Z4 3.0i SE 2-door Roadster/Convertible Tiptronic in Maldives Blue. 13,500 miles. Was: £16,750

07 07 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CTDi Exclusive 5-door Hatchback Automatic/Tiptronic in Silver. 31,000 miles. Was: £8,295 **Now: £7,795** Save £500!

08 57 Skoda Octavia 1.6 FSi Classic 5-door Hatchback in Gold Metallic. 23,600 miles. Was: £7,995 **Now: £7,295** Save £700!

07 07 Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique 5-door Hatchback in Mercury Metallic. 24,500 miles. Was: £7,295 **Now: £6,995** Save £300!

07 07 Skoda Roomster 2 1.4 5-door Hatchback in Deep Sea Blue. 23,000 miles. Was: £7,695 **Now: £6,995** Save £700!

08 08 Renault Twingo 1.2 GT 3-door Hatchback in Black. 12,000 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,395** Save £600!

07 07 Renault Modus 1.4 16V Dynamique 5-door Hatchback in Antique Green. 10,800 miles. Was: £6,995 **Now: £6,295** Save £700!

07 07 Vauxhall Agila 1.2 Design 5-door MPV in Star Silver. 9,800 miles. Was: £6,495 **Now: £5,995** Save £500!

07 57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate 5-door Hatchback Automatic in Tonic Blue. 17,500 miles. Was: £5,995

07 57 Renault Scenic 1.6 Dynamique 5-door Hatchback Automatic in Pearl Black. 35,800 miles. Was: £5,995

08 57 Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-door Hatchback in Ocean Blue. 26,500 miles. Was: £5,495

05 05 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Club 5-door Hatchback in Star Silver Metallic. 34,500 miles. Was: £4,995

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| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR [2008 -] 15610 MILES | £9499 | £7999 | £1500 |
| 58 FORD FOCUS DIESEL ESTATE 1.8 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [2008 - 2009] 20429 MILES | £9999 | £8499 | £1500 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [2008 - 2010] 18890 MILES | £11999 | £9999 | £2000 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [110] [DPF] [2008 -] 18164 MILES | £11999 | £10499 | £1500 |
| 08 FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 3DR 0 MILES | £13999 | £13299 | £700 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR [2008 -] 15610 MILES | £8999 | £7999 | £1000 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR [2008 -] 15610 MILES | £8799 | £7799 | £1000 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR [2008 -] 15610 MILES | £7999 | £6999 | £1000 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR [2008 -] 15610 MILES | £8799 | £7799 | £1000 |
| 10 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [2008 - 2010] 18440 MILES | £16999 | £15999 | £1200 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR [2007 - 2010] 14821 MILES | £7999 | £6499 | £1500 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR [2007 - 2010] 14821 MILES | £7999 | £6499 | £1500 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR [2007 - 2010] 14821 MILES | £7999 | £6499 | £1500 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR [2007 - 2010] 14761 MILES | £7799 | £6499 | £1500 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR [2007 - 2010] 14821 MILES | £7799 | £6499 | £1500 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 2.0 ZETEC 5DR AUTO [2007 - 2010] 17012 MILES | £7999 | £6499 | £1500 |
| 59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE [2010.5] 3 DR 1.25 82PS STAGE VI [-] 12705 MILES | £8999 | £7499 | £1500 |
| 59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE [2010.5] 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE VI [-] 12314 MILES | £8999 | £7499 | £1500 |
| 59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE [2010.5] 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE VI [-] 12314 MILES | £8999 | £7499 | £1500 |
| 10 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR | £11999 | £10499 | £1500 |
| 56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] | £5999 | £5499 | £500 |
| 57 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE] | £11999 | £10499 | £1500 |
| 10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK EDGE [2009] 5 DR 1.4 68PS TDCI [-] 14130 MILES | £12999 | £11999 | £1000 |
| 10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ZETEC S [2010.5] 3 DR 1.6 TDCI 90PS STAGE V [-] 16315 MILES | £12999 | £11999 | £1000 |
| 10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ECONETIC [2009] 5 DR 1.6 TDCI 90 + DPF [-] 15188 MILES | £12999 | £11999 | £1000 |
| 57 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] [2005 - 2008] 9655 MILES | £6999 | £5999 | £1000 |
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| 09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR [2007 - 2010] 23205 MILES | £13999 | £12999 | £1000 |
| 59 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [140] AUTO [2008 - 2010] 25236 MILES | £13499 | £12799 | £700 |
| 57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE [1] 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC 1438 MILES | £6999 | £5999 | £1000 |
| 57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + [2007.25] 5-DR 1.6 100PS [-] 12317 MILES | £6999 | £5999 | £1000 |
| 57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK ZETEC [2008] 5-DR AUTO 1.6 100PS [-] 10750 MILES | £6999 | £5999 | £1000 |
| 08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR 0 MILES | £11999 | £9999 | £2000 |
| 08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR [2007 - 2008] | £3999 | £3499 | £500 |
| 08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR [2007 - 2008] | £3999 | £3499 | £500 |
| 05 PEUGEOT 1.0 1.6 5DR | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 56 VOLVO V50 2.0 D 200 SPORT 5DR [EURO 4] | £9999 | £8999 | £1000 |
| 53 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.6 LS 5DR | £4499 | £3499 | £1000 |
| 07 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE 4DR | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 56 CITROEN C1 1.0 RHYTHM 3DR | £5999 | £5199 | £800 |
| 06 KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.1 LX 5DR AUTO [2004 - 2006] 6218 MILES | £4499 | £3999 | £500 |
| 57 DAIHATSU SIRION 1.0 SE 5DR | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 10 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [2008 - 2010] 21556 MILES | £21999 | £20999 | £1000 |
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| 57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + [2007.25] 5-DR 1.6 100PS [-] 12317 MILES | £6999 | £5999 | £1000 |
| 02 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [110] [EURO 4] [CLIMATE PACK] | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR | £11999 | £9999 | £2000 |
| 08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR [2007 - 2008] | £3999 | £3499 | £500 |

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10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

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07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, 22,500 miles. £6,995

06 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 FSI Sport 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Diamond Silver Metallic, 27,500 miles. £6,995

58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

57 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Classic 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £5,995

53 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 Comfort 5-Dr Hatchback

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06 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Bohemia (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate

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05 Plate. BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci Sport 2-Dr Convertible

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59 Plate. SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback

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58 Plate. Fiat 500 1.3 MultiJet Sport 3-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Pasodoble Red with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 27,100 miles. £9,795

51 Plate. BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci 2-Dr Convertible

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55 Plate. Peugeot 407 SW 2.0 HDi 136 SE (Luxury)

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04 Plate. Honda Civic 2.0 Type S 5-Dr Hatchback

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56 Plate. Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSi SE 5-Door Hatchback

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| 10 10 | CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 1.2 3DR, Black Sapphire, 2,340 miles | £9995 | £9495 |
| 10 10 | CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lightning, 2,045 miles | £8995 | £8750 |
| 10 10 | CORSA 1.3 CDTI ENERGY 3DR, Glacier White, 2,800 miles | £10995 | £10395 |
| 10 10 | CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 5DR, Metro Blue, 2,925 miles | £9995 | £9495 |
| 10 10 | CORSA 1.4 SE 5DR, Beach Green, 4,740 miles | £10995 | £10495 |
| 10 10 | CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Star Silver, Del.miles | £9495 | £8995 |
| 10 10 | CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Metro Blue, Del.miles | £9495 | £8995 |
| 10 10 | CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lake, Del.miles | £9495 | £8995 |
| 10 10 | CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, White, 2,734 miles | £8995 | £8795 |

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|-------|--|--------|--------|
| 10 10 | ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 5,010 miles | £11495 | £9995 |
| 10 10 | ASTRA 1.8 SRI X PACK 3DR, Black Sapphire, 3,490 miles | £13995 | £11995 |
| 10 10 | ASTRA 2.0 CDTI SR 5DR, Black Sapphire, 3,330 miles | £18995 | £17995 |
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| 10 10 | ASTRA 1.4 SPORT SPORTS HATCH 5DR, Power Red, 2,065 miles | £11995 | £10995 |
| 10 10 | NEW ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 2,210 miles | £13995 | £11975 |

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|-------|--|--------|--------|
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| | | WAS | NOW |
|-------|---|--------|--------|
| 10 10 | INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 6,395 miles | £15495 | £14995 |
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VAUXHALL

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Cut-price high-spec new Lancer

MITSUBISHI has launched a new high-value special edition Lancer model, the petrol-engine 1.5 Juro (£14,749).

Based on the current mid-range Lancer 1.5 GS2, it gains black leather upholstery and a Kenwood integrated sat nav system, which includes a reversing camera as standard.

It also brings Bluetooth connectivity, i-Pod connection, 16-inch



alloys, climate control, leather steering wheel with audio controls, electric windows, powered and heated door mirrors, and metallic paint with colour-keyed rear spoiler.

On the safety front it also comes with front, side, curtain and knee airbags and a Euro NCAP five-star safety rating.

Extending the eco range at Vauxhall

VAUXHALL has announced a 'first' by offering eco models across its entire five-strong van range.

Carrying the brand's Ecoflex label, the line-up now includes two new Luton-built Vivaro Ecoflex panel van 2.0-litre diesels, at 90PS (88bhp) and 115PS (113bhp) both with low CO2 outputs for their sector of just 185g/km, despite having payloads of up to 1,254kg.

The duo complement the recently-launched Corsavan Ecoflex 1.3CDTi Start/Stop which emits a miserly 105g/km CO2.

At the other extreme in bulk and offering best-in-class CO2 output of 202g/km, is the 3.3 tonne Movano Ecoflex, while Astravan and Combo Ecoflex models complete the Vauxhall range.

Vauxhall Commercial Vehicles' brand manager Steve Bryant said: "Green credentials are becoming a higher priority for customers looking to reduce the carbon footprint of their vehicles."



Polo price cut to carry on 2010 sales drive

VOLKSWAGEN will energise the supermini sector for the next two months with top offers on its award-winning Polo, to follow up on a successful 2010.

Until March 31, all versions of the 2010 European Car of the Year – apart from GTI hot hatch and BlueMotion eco warrior models – are available to private buyers with £500 off – starting with the entry-level Polo S 1.2-litre three-door at £9,495.

It also means that PCP (personal contract purchase) deals with Volkswagen Finance start at just £99 per month, including up to three years' free servicing.

The latest and fifth generation Polo was launched in October 2009 and has also been voted World Car of the Year 2010.

The car's growing reputation helped the Polo to its best-selling year in the UK since 2003.

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CRUZE 1.6 5 5dr £13,795
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CAPTIVA 2.0 VCDI LT 5 Seat 5dr £22,815
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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at extra cost (Spark, Aveo at £375 and Captiva at £400), 3 year warranty up to 400,000 miles, subject to vehicle excess limit. This offer is subject to Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year extended mileage manufacturer's warranty and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limit/bal. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. Savings shown are against recommended retail price at time of publication. Call now for recorded and personalised test driving purposes. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO2 emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDI LT 5-seat: Urban - 32.1 (8.8), Extra-urban - 45.6 (6.2), Combined - 39.2 (7.7). CO2 emissions 191g/km. Cruze 1.6 5dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO2 emissions 159g/km. Spark 1.2 LT 5dr: Urban - 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 55.4 (5.1). CO2 emissions 119g/km.



Motability

Canterbury dealer planning three-pronged brand attack

by
STEVE LOADER

LONG-established Canterbury Mazda has shaken up its partner brand line-up.

The site in Broad Oak Road is to relinquish the Hyundai brand in September – the Motorline group is tipped to take it on – but has already set-up two new marques in its place.

They are premium all-wheel drive brand Subaru and rugged Isuzu, which deals exclusively in pick-up trucks.

Along with Mazda they will create an all-Japanese brand array for the Canterbury firm, which is a standalone car dealership within the John Parker and Son steel group, owner of the huge site behind the car showrooms.

Complement

Canterbury Mazda dealer principal Kevin Ferrell was delighted with the acquisitions, selling a Subaru even before he had a chance to put up the new signs:

"The two brands complement the models in our long-running Mazda franchise," he told Driving.

"But they are also a good fit in other ways: the demographics for the Canterbury and rural east Kent area are right for the 4x4 dependability of the Subaru line-up, especially the rugged Outback and Forester models – some of the



RUGGED DUO: (l-r) The Subaru Outback and Isuzu Rodeo form part of the new all-Japanese portfolio at Canterbury Mazda

farmers around here will have fond memories of the little pick-up trucks that made the brand popular in the UK in the 80s.

"The CT post code area contains a lot of families who enjoy a rural lifestyle and country pursuits, go to horse shows and so on. The Subaru range still contains the racy 300bhp Impreza WRX, but it looks more discreet these days and is aimed at a more discerning performance driver, but we see our main market as rural buyers.

"The timing is good too with the impressive new diesel engine now available for those who are wedded to that fuel."

He added that Isuzu was also welcome and would be popular with local farmers looking for a workhorse, but he also expected the dealership's association with the ParkerSteel operation to pay dividends:

"Our parent company has a massive reach, not just in Kent; it has a database of 30,000 customers and many will be in the construction sector and looking for a tough 4x4 site vehicle."

Sales for both brands are already under way and work will start soon on a £50,000 refurbishment and signage.

Both new brands share the same Midland-based distributor, which should be pleased with the Subaru development particularly.

Just six years ago, Subaru's UK import base was re-located to a 28-acre purpose-built facility at Neats Court near the Port of Sheerness on Sheppey, after outgrowing its previous site in Gloucestershire.

The move coincided with rapid growth for the brand, which then suffered a setback as consumers started switching more and more to

diesels in the all-wheel drive premium sector.

Compounding the problem was Subaru's decision to remain loyal to the distinctive horizontally-opposed cylinder or Boxer engine layout that gives its cars good handling and performance and underpins the marque's 'Uncommon' marketing pitch.

So, rather than buying in a diesel – though this would have entailed some re-working of its models – it opted to take time to develop a unique Boxer diesel engine, now driving a resurgence of interest in the brand.

With Canterbury Mazda adding it to its portfolio, Subaru now has a well-placed distributor for the whole of the east of the country – former franchise holder KAP at Folkestone having decided to concentrate on servicing and parts.

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| CO₂ EMISSIONS | 168 G/KM |
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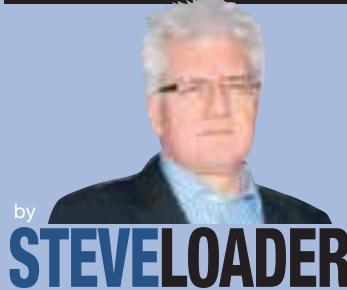
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DrivingReview



by
STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Kia Sportage

CHANGE is a constant theme at Kia and in the motor market generally nowadays.

Five years ago, like many people, I might have said there is nothing more frustrating than something that looks like a four-wheel drive motor, but has just two wheels under power.

It conjures memories of that old fraud, the Matra Rancho of the 70s/80s – it should have been dubbed the Macho – created to capitalise on the buzz from the original Range Rover.

'Funky chunky'

Recently though, carmakers have found success with economical front-wheel drive designs that have what I call the 'funky chunky' 4x4 look.

A convenient label like 'crossover' has helped too, making the Nissan Qashqai and Peugeot 3008 big sellers in particular.

And so we come to the Kia Sportage, launched with a fanfare last year in arresting full spec 4x4 glory, but now available in big-

A Kia to buy for its style, not its value



selling front-wheel drive only versions too.

Not only does it exhibit how the market has changed, but also how Kia's image has been transformed in just a few years.

The Korean brand's previous two generations of Sportage were tough and worthy and offered tremendous value, the Mk II being offered latterly with the seven-year/100,000-mile warranty now standard on all Kias.

But its replacement is a Kia you can buy because you simply like it, without even considering that warranty and keen pricing from £17,015.

It is no coincidence that it is also the first

Kia penned completely by former Audi design guru and TT creator Peter Shreyer.

He joined Kia four years ago, but new cars aren't sketched and then made overnight so Shreyer's influence was diluted until the arrival of the Sportage, which could prove to be as pivotal – at least, for now – in changing Kia's image as was the first TT for Audi.

I refuse to label it a crossover though, because the selling pitch there is how such cars straddle the family hatchback, medium MPV and compact SUV/4x4 sectors; the new Sportage is bigger and more striking and lacks the seating/cabin versatility of

top crossovers like the Qashqai and the Skoda Yeti.

The rear seats, for instance, do not fold absolutely flat though the cargo space – with seats upright or flat – is good. It will also seat three across the back with good elbow, leg and headroom.

However, despite a big and tall body the Sportage feels nimble and well-sorted and can be pushed hard with just a bit of wallow on bends.

But if you think you need the big 2.0-litre petrol (161bhp) and diesel (134bhp) engines to wring the best out of it, think again.

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2006/56
PLATE
PEUGEOT
407 DIESEL
1.6HDi SE 4
DOOR

in ice blue metallic with contrasting dark grey interior, cruise control, electric windows, air conditioning, remote control central locking, CD in car entertainment system, alloy wheels, multi air bag protection system, electric folding adjustable door mirrors, height adjustable front seats, auto wipers, auto headlights, factory fitted smart nav, onboard trip computer, front fog lights, this car is one owner from new with a full service history, offers great fuel economy and good value for money £5,995



2006/06
PLATE
VAUXHALL
ASTRA 1.6 CLUB,
5 DOOR
HATCHBACK

in panacotta silver metallic with contrasting dark grey cloth interior, air conditioning, air bags, multi air bag protection, coded stereo with CD player, multi function steering wheel, remote control central locking, alarm and immobiliser, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, with full service history and only one owner from new offered at only £4,995



2006/55
PLATE NEW
VAUXHALL
ZAFIRA 1.6
ACTIVE 7
SEATER

in ocean blue metallic with contrasting black cloth interior, air conditioning, electric windows, alloy wheels, remote control central locking, 7 seats, CD in car entertainment system, drivers seat height adjustment, electric adjustable door mirrors, multi function steering wheel, multi air bag protection system, this car is the latest shape, one owner from new with only 21,000 miles and a full service history £5,995



2004/54
PLATE
VOLKSWAGEN
BEETLE Tdi
3 DOOR

in stardust metallic silver with contrasting black cloth interior, air conditioning, heated front seats, front fog lights, electric windows, electric adjustable door mirrors, rear parking sensors, CD in car entertainment system, multi air bag protection system, front height adjustable seats, front armrests, this car offers great fuel economy and a real pleasure to drive £5,995



2005/05
PLATE
SAAB 9-3
1.8 4 DOOR
SALOON

in sunburst red with contrasting black cloth interior, air conditioning, remote control central locking, driver seat height adjustment, electric windows, electric adjustable door mirrors, CD in car entertainment system, multi air bag protection system, this car is one owner from new with full main dealer service history and is immaculate inside and out, offers great value for money £4,995



2005/05
PLATE
PEUGEOT 407
DIESEL 2.0
Hdi S 4 DOOR

in ice blue metallic with contrasting dark grey interior, 6 speed gearbox, electric windows, air conditioning, remote central locking, CD in car entertainment system, front fog lights, multi air bag protection system, electric adjustable door mirrors, drivers seat height adjustment, this car offers great fuel economy and good value for money £4,495



2002/02
PLATE
CITROEN
XSARA PICASSO 1.6
SX 5 DOOR

in midnight black with contrasting dark grey cloth interior, air conditioning, power steering, central locking, electric windows, multi function steering wheel, electric adjustable door mirrors, front fog lights, CD in car entertainment system, drivers seat height adjustment, multi air bag protection system, rear passenger seats, underfloor storage compartments, front armrests, this family car offers great value for money and lots of space £2,995



2003/53
PLATE
RENAULT
ESPACE 2.2
DIESEL
INITIAL 7
SEATER

in magma red metallic with contrasting sand leather/suede interior, air conditioning/climate control, factory fitted sat nav, 16" alloy wheels, air bags, remote control central locking, 7 seats, CD in car entertainment system, drivers seat height adjustment, electric adjustable door mirrors, rear parking sensors, CD in car entertainment system, multi air bag protection system, front height adjustable seats, front armrests, this car offers great value for money and lots of extras, the highest spec you can get with more than enough space, full service history, be quick this is priced to sell at only £5,995



2000/W
PLATE
VAUXHALL
ZAFIRA
COMFORT
1.6 16V 7
SEATER

in silver metallic with contrasting dark grey cloth interior, air conditioning, electric windows, stow and go rear, 7 seats, headrests, all round stereo with CD player, electric windows, roof rails, abs, fully colour coded, an excellent value 7 seater offered at only £2,995



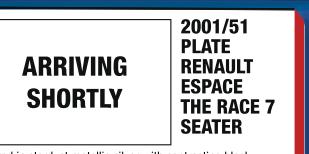
2000/W
PLATE
VOLKSWAGEN
GOLF 1.9 Tdi
SE 5 DOOR

in metallic cosmos black with contrasting cloth interior, air conditioning, electric windows, remote control central locking, CD in car entertainment system, front armrest, height adjustable front seats, power steering, electric adjustable door mirrors, alloy wheels, multi air bag protection system, this car has only covered 51,000 miles from new with a good service history and offers great value for money £2,995



2004/54
PLATE
RENAULT
GRAND
ESPACE
AUTOMATIC
DIESEL
INITIAL
7 SEATER

in nightfire blue metallic with contrasting sand leather/suede interior, air conditioning/climate control, factory fitted sat nav, full panoramic glass sunroof, remote control stereo and CD multi changer, electric memory seats, abs, all round air bag protection, rear picnic tables and headrests, rear park distance control, new card start system with remote control central locking, alarm and immobiliser, automatic screen wipers, automatic light control, front centre armrests, abs, automatic traction control, electric retractable wing mirrors, electric windows, rear blinds, a absolutely stunning 7 seater with lots and lots of extras, the highest spec you can get with more than enough space, only 63,000 miles from new and full main dealer service history, be quick this is priced to sell at only £9,995



2001/51
PLATE
RENAULT
ESPACE
THE RACE 7
SEATER

offered in stardust metallic silver with contrasting black cloth interior, alloy wheels, air conditioning/climate control, remote control stereo, remote control central locking, electric windows, electric adjustable door mirrors, underseat storage compartments, front fog lights, this 7 seater has lots and lots of extras and with only 62,000 miles from new shows really good value for money £3,995

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£1,995

P REG/1997 MAZDA 323 1.5 LX 5 door, in metallic red, alloy wheels, power steering, electric windows, this car has a mot and is taxed ...

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ENM



I would advance the case of the entry level 133bhp 1.6 direct-injection EcoDynamics petrol model tested here. It is lively but smooth and comes with a crisp six-speed gearbox and an automatic stop/start system for urban use, both enabling it to average well over 40mpg.

You will pay more than £1,500 extra for its 114bhp 1.7 diesel equivalent and need to

drive many miles before you claw back that cash through an average fuel consumption only 10mpg better.

And the annual road tax bill for the diesel is just £15 less.

Even at Sportage 1 spec level as tested here, the car comes laden with features including a USB/iPod connection, and the interior is as sharply styled as the exterior, though the

plastics quality lets the side down in places.

I would trade up as far as you can afford, because the Sportage looks stunning with all the kit on; those wheel arches are designed for big 18-inch alloys and why not have the full leather treatment plus 4x4 too (from £21,255)? For this is a Kia to be proud of – buy it for itself, as much as the pricing and warranty.

Driving Portfolio

KIA SPORTAGE 1.6GDI ECO DYNAMICS £17,015

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Driving appeal | (out of five) | ★★★★ |
| Image | | ★★★★ |
| Space | | ★★★★ |
| Value | | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | | ★★★★★ |
| How green? | | ★★★★ |
| Road tax | | £125/year |
| Best rival | | Nissan Qashqai |

The Verdict



DON'T LIKE:

the lack of rear seats that fold properly flat



NOT SURE:

everyone will realise how much this car shows that Kia has come of age



REALLY LIKE:

the style, vitality and promise of even greater things to come from Kia

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11

New registration special feature

Why a new car makes sense



DOWNSIZING: Many buyers are swapping family favourites for funky compact MPVs like the Citroën C3 Picasso.

By **STEVE LOADER**

DESPITE economic gloom and doom, new car registrations managed to rise by nearly two per cent in 2010.

Admittedly, industry sources predict a fall of five per cent for the coming year, but the sound reasons why many people splashed their cash on a new motor last year have not really changed.

The big ticket item in anyone's budget, a new house, is not really an option in such uncertain times, but anyone who has a steady job and cash in the bank might fancy changing their car now.

Savings accounts are earning a pittance, so you might make more through big savings on a new car thanks to good deals from carmakers and forecourts desperate to deal.

There is a new realism about list prices anyway as manufacturers recognise that these fairly tale figures are a big deterrent to genuine private buyers, thereby outweighing their intended benefit to carmakers: to convince fleet buyers of fantastic bulk-buy discounts and also to give dealers room to manoeuvre on deals and part exchanges.

Other buyer incentives out there in a tough market include superb packages on finance – which banks simply won't match – insurance and servicing.

There are also outstanding warranties available such as Vauxhall's 'lifetime' guarantee on cars up to 100,000 miles.

Servicing deals often cost extra but can be very cost-effective, so ask about those if one is not offered.

Remember too that road tax also favours downsizing or changing to a leaner and meaner motor; most superminis and many family hatchbacks now qualify for zero



BEST SELLER: Vauxhall's stylish Astra was No2 in the UK sales chart last year

road tax in year one and modest charges thereafter.

Petrol power is also coming back into the frame against diesel, particularly at the lower end of the market. The fuel itself is set to stay cheaper than diesel simply

because oil refining capacity is geared more to the former.

Petrol engines are also cheaper to buy upfront and lighter, and while they still cannot compete on economy with diesels, it is the savings elsewhere that quietly add up: less wear and tear on tyres and front end mechanicals.

Diesels may have won over many sceptics with their good low-down power delivery, but small and efficient turbocharged petrol units are making a difference here now and, with the nimbleness of petrol power, make for more entertaining driving.

Petrol engine emissions are also being lowered steadily so their road tax and emissions credentials are far better.

Factor in all of the above and the sums start to add up on ditching something dated and less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.

• **For more on '11 New Reg trends and buying tips, see inside.**



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*VAT reduction equivalent to 20.0% VAT applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras on all Fabia, Roomster, petrol Octavia and petrol Superb new car retail orders taken before 31st March 2011. VAT is still applicable and will be shown on the customer invoice. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at anytime. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Model shown varies from UK specification.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Škoda range: Urban 19.6 (14.4) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO₂ emissions for the Škoda range 237 – 89g/km.



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by
STEVE LOADER

GLOBAL warming and care for the environment has created a need for leaner and meaner models.

New road tax bandings, ranging from zero to £950 a year for gas guzzling limos or 4x4s, are changing our car buying habits too.

Of course, anyone spending £50,000-100,000 on a new motor won't worry about small change like that, but most people like saving a few quid there and through the improved economy of greener cars, while incidentally doing their bit for the environment.

Longer term, electric cars may be the answer and there has been lots of publicity about 'plug-in' models for overnight charging at home or city centre charging points.

But battery technology has some catching up to do and the zero emissions argument is misleading. Until we have zero emission power stations, electric cars simply transfer the CO2 and noxious gas output from exhaust pipe to belching chimney.

Refinement

Are hybrids the answer then? Japanese giants Toyota and Honda lead here, pairing conventional engines with electric power and batteries.

However, hybrids are expensive to buy and the economy at motorway speeds is no better than a frugal diesel.

And so we return to the internal combustion 'lump' where emissions are plummeting, economy is soaring and refinement is improving.

In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what a few legislative kicks up the backside have achieved.

The downsizing phenomenon is well under way too, with several new cars proving that 'small is beautiful'.

Most carmakers also now have an 'eco' sub-

It's a leaner, meaner market out there



BRANDED LEAN AND MEAN: Skoda's Fabia Greenline (top) Vauxhall's Corsa Ecoflex (left) and SEAT's Leon Ecomotive (right)

brand such as Vauxhall's Ecoflex, Skoda's Greenline, and SEAT's Ecomotive.

But they often don't come cheap, so weigh potential long-term savings against upfront

cost – if you don't cover the miles, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol models either; the higher price of diesel cars and the fuel at the pumps

must be compared with new small capacity low emission/consumption petrol engines such as the turbocharged 1.4-litre units found in the Skoda and SEAT ranges.

Fuel consumption figures for Saab 9-3 Diesel Saloon Range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 36.7–49.6 (7.7–5.7), Extra-urban 60.1–72.4 (4.7–3.9), Combined 48.7–62.8 (5.8–4.5). CO₂ emissions 153–119g/km. *Offer available to business users for orders received before 31.03.2011. £289 figure is based on a 9-3 Turbo Edition Saloon 1.9TTiD (160PS) Manual on a non-maintenance contract hire package over 36 months. 10,000kms per year. Advance payment equal to 3 monthly payments is payable followed by 36 monthly payments. Excess mileage charge applies if extra 100 miles per annum. For full terms and conditions and specification please refer to the Saab Planner Agreement and your local dealer. All quotations are subject to availability, status and agreement. Free mileage pack is only available in conjunction with the Saab Great Britain Limited offer and applies to selected models only. Guarantees may be required. Terms are unavailable to existing customers under specific end-user terms with Saab Great Britain Limited. Details correct at time of publication and may vary, eg if list price changes. Saab Great Britain Limited does not offer car advice to individuals; company car drivers should consult their accountant on their tax position. Contract hire by ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Saab Contract Hire, Chalcroft Park, London Croydon, CR0 9PA. ALD Automotive Ltd. is incorporated in the UK and regulated by the Financial Services Authority in respect of general insurance products. On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Fixed Price Licence, test registration, tax and VAT. Excludes fuel and insurance. Model shown and £289 a month. Contract hire offer applies to 9-3 Turbo Edition Saloon 1.9TTiD (160PS) Manual at £23,974.35 OTR with optional metallic paint at £536.87. 111g/km CO₂ emissions based on MY13 9-3 Diesel Saloon engines only and excludes the 1.7TTiD (180PS) Aero model. Exempt from first year road tax.

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119g/km CO₂ and zero road tax[†].

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The Saab 1.9TTiD Saloon from just £289 a month* (excl. VAT).

The Saab 9-3 Twin Turbo Diesel Saloon range now has a choice of three 1.9TTiD engines with CO₂ emissions of just 119g/km[†]. So you can drive away without paying road tax[†]. But economy doesn't come at the expense of performance, in fact the exhilarating 180PS variant is the most powerful car in its class. With prices from just £289 a month* (excl. VAT) and generous specification that includes leather trim seats, 17" alloy wheels, Bluetooth and heated front seats all as standard, the most efficient thing to do would be to test drive one today.

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YOU FUEL: The Saab 2.0 TiD Vector SE diesel saloon costs £1,795 less than its petrol equivalent

Will a diesel save you money in the long run?

SALES of new diesel cars in the UK rose to a record of 46.1 per cent last year, but research by car buying watchdog Parkers, show they may not be the smart choice.

The website's editor Kieren Puffett said: "Although the average economy is usually rated better than the equivalent petrol model, a diesel model will carry a premium over petrol when you come to buy and diesel is still more expensive at the pumps. In some cases that means you'll have to travel many miles before it starts to pay off."

Parkers underlined the point by picking 10

models with both diesel and petrol equivalents in their range and calculated how many miles a buyer would need to cover at current fuel prices to recoup their money, if travelling an average of 12,000 miles a year.

Puffett said: "The results turned out to be quite surprising. For instance, a diesel Chevrolet Captiva, costing £5,000 more than its petrol equivalent, will take 15 years to recoup your money in fuel savings – patently a ridiculous idea. Conversely, a Saab 9-5 diesel is both cheaper to run and buy so you'd be a fool to opt for a 9-5 petrol."

DOs and DON'Ts before buying a new car

- 1 Don't accept the first deal on offer – be ready to haggle.
- 2 Don't be afraid to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts or extras.
- 3 Don't fall for what seems like a big bargain before you even haggle. It could be an unpopular engine or trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago – it might be just as thirsty as your old car and will depreciate badly.
- 4 Do pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it won't get any easier out there.
- 5 Don't be blinded by road tax-exempt diesel eco models – check price, running costs and green credentials and the savings over your planned ownership mileage/years and then compare against the closest standard version.
- 6 Do not assume that diesel will save you money – you will usually pay far more up front and the engines are generally heavier, which means more wear and tear on front tyres and mechanicals. The fuel is also dearer at the pumps, while petrol cars have become dramatically better on fuel and emissions and, in most cases, are far nicer to drive.
- 7 Do spare a thought for an LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) car model. LPG offers lower emissions and is roughly half the price of petrol at the pumps. There are also many more filling stations offering the fuel, so there is now no need to rely on the car's more expensive petrol tank bridging the gap between gas fill-ups.



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INSIDE THIS WEEK

IT'S been a bad week for Kent, and it's going to get worse.

The closure of Pfizer will mean 2,400 posts lost – and many highly skilled staff will be looking to leave Kent for other specialist positions in the UK and abroad.

Not only that, the knock-on carnage in the supply chain could mean another 3,000 workers are out of a job. Amid the gloom we offer a few shafts of light – we meet the former professional footballer who has turned his love of the game into a thriving business.

And there's advice for SMEs on how to improve their prospects of raising some much-needed finance.

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Braced for shockwave of R&D base's closure

By STEVE KNIGHT

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THE impending closure of Pfizer's Sandwich base is expected to have a devastating knock-on effect on the Kent economy.

In addition to the 2,400 direct employees who will be made redundant over the next two years, an estimated 3,000 extra jobs may also be lost among contractors and other small businesses that lose their main source of revenue.

Andrew Aves – regional organiser of the Kent branch of the Federation of Small Businesses – described the situation as "very serious".

He added: "Clearly the supply chain is going to be affected too, such as the people who work in the staff canteen, for example. I wouldn't have thought the staff at Pfizer clean their own windows either."

"But the knock-on effect will be significant right across the board, because if you remove the wage packets of 2,400 people then the grocery



stores, pubs, restaurants, theatres and so on are all going to suffer. People commute to Sandwich from Canterbury, Thanet and elsewhere, so the closure of Pfizer presents a huge risk to the economic sustainability of east Kent, which is vulnerable enough as it is."

Pfizer – which lays claim to some of the world's biggest medical discoveries, including anti-impotence drug Viagra – is based in Surrey and has other operations in Maidenhead, Aberdeen and Cambridge.

The Sandwich site conducts research and

development on allergy and respiratory drugs.

At its peak, about 5,000 staff worked there, but numbers halved after manufacturing ended at the site in 2007.

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said the closure was a "huge blow" to the county.

She added: "An operation of the scale of Pfizer draws heavily on the local supply chain in terms of goods, services and infrastructure. The knock-on effect of the closure will undoubtedly be heavy in east Kent, and probably throughout the county."

Pfizer is also representative of a very special hi-tech science sector of which Kent has been justifiably proud. Its withdrawal from the area, which has provided such a valuable infrastructure for years, is extremely disappointing."

Ms James added that she felt Sandwich and east Kent as a whole should have the ability and talent to overcome the loss of Pfizer.

She said: "We can but hope that with government help the facilities, the workforce and the local supply chain can move onto other things to mitigate the effects."

Tourism growth's solid foundations

A STRIKING campaign aimed at marketing the county as cool and contemporary has drawn in an additional £18 million for the tourism industry.

In its first five months the £400,000 Kent Contemporary project, designed by Visit Kent and M&C Saatchi, pulled in almost 420,000 extra visitors. The campaign featured posters – displayed at London stations and on the Underground – of unusual images of Kent captured by leading photographer Jean Luc Bernard.

The aim was to tempt city dwellers and people from across the South East and Europe to the county to enjoy its natural and historic delights.

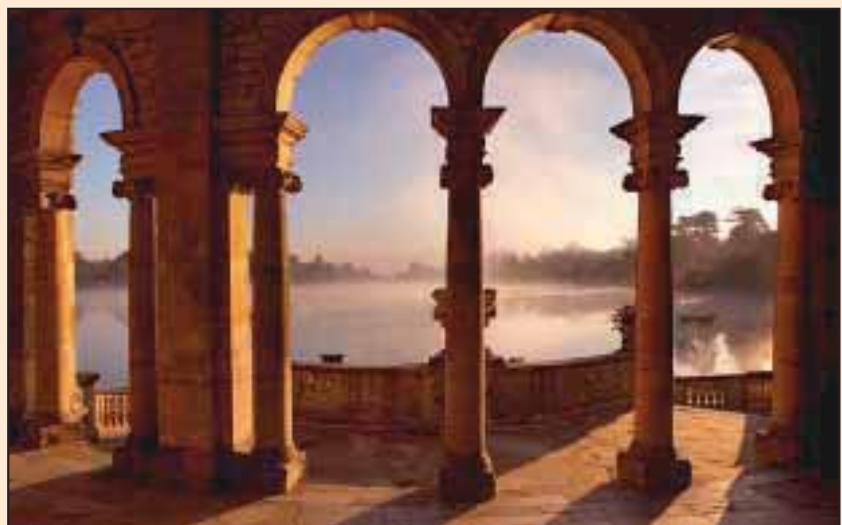
The chief executive of Visit Kent, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said the campaign was already proving its worth. "I am looking forward to working with more tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses and organisations committed to growing our economy," she added.

The campaign – which featured three key images: Hever Castle; Botany Bay in Thanet; and the Goods Shed in Canterbury – also encouraged county residents to take more overnight trips and day trips in Kent, with a total value of just under £11 million – although this figure was not included in the economic impact data.

Cllr Kevin Lynes, Kent County Council's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "These are stunning results and it's great to see so many people visiting our county. This campaign opened the eyes of many potential visitors by showing them the hidden gems we all take for granted."

"We have more than 3,000 tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses in Kent and their success is crucial. KCC is committed to working with Visit Kent and investors to promote this industry, which contributes more than £2.5 billion to our economy every year and supports 50,000 jobs."

"So many people are benefiting from the success of the Kent Contemporary campaign."



COOL KENT: Hever Castle, above, Botany Bay and the Goods Shed featured in campaign





Comment

THIS week's decision by Pfizer to close its base in Sandwich serves as a harsh reminder of the world we currently live in.

While the Government prefers to use words like "recovery" and "revival" when referring to the economy these days, it's clear business is still struggling and that even the biggest multinational corporations are being forced to cut their losses.

The 2,400 employees directly affected by the impending closure of Pfizer have some big decisions to make over the next two years, as it is clear such highly-specialised jobs will be hard to come by anywhere else in the county.

Many will be forced to leave Kent in search of alternative employment, while some may decide they have no choice but to seek a new career path altogether.

There is also the knock-on effect the closure is bound to have on the local economy. As both the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses have pointed out, there are likely to be many more firms that will suffer from the loss of such a huge employer.

What will happen to all the shop workers, restaurant staff, cleaners, canteen workers and so on who rely on the cash spent by Pfizer's army of workers? Unfortunately it looks like many will end up beside them in the dole queue.

However, through the dark storm clouds gathering over Sandwich, there are some who can just make out a glimmer of hope in the distance.

They say the site is just too large and too hi-tech to be wasted, and that the demise of Pfizer in Kent could lead to an influx of science-led companies that could make full use of the technology available to them.

Kent County Council is well aware of how important the Sandwich base is to the east Kent economy and beyond, and should be pushing the Government to do all it can to ensure such a positive outcome.



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First LEP meeting sets the agenda for economic growth

By **MARIJKE COX**

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THE first meeting of a new economic powerhouse has taken place, kick-starting the new generation of Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Leaders from the public and private sectors in Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex met in Dartford last week to discuss the work ahead of them and the priorities of the new organisation.

The LEP, which is seen as one of the successors of the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), will work with businesses in the region to drive economic growth and regeneration.

Funds will come from bids to central government, unlike with predecessor Seeda, which received tens of millions of pounds every year.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said the first meeting went well but stressed the board was still temporary and members may change.

"We decided 45 people around the table was too many to carry out the day-to-day business so we will have an executive board that will report back to the LEP partners," he said.

"We'll also do an executive search to get the right person for the job of chairman."

Cllr Carter said priorities set out in the original LEP bid had remained consistent.

"We're trying to support significant regeneration and change in deprived coastal reaches. We're also looking to work on how to deliver more in the Thames Gateway and ensure support for rural economies.

"Other priorities are the need for greater housing growth and transport networks. We're trying to be more proactive in coming up with solutions like in our Growth Without Gridlock document, which looks at development such as building a third Thames crossing.

"The LEP will come up with all sorts of innovative solutions through public and private sector working."

Deprived

Cllr Carter said the LEP area had significant needs and the profile had to be raised.

"We have deprived coastal areas that need help. Money goes into the North and North East of England where there is poverty – we need that too," he said.

"The different areas [Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex] coming together on common issues will mean greater impact on Government and more influence. Ultimately, we all endeavour to make a difference."

Representatives from Kent and Medway's Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) attended the meet-

ing and gave a cautious welcome to the progress being made.

The organisation, which represents 6,700 businesses in Kent, said it was pleased the original work programme set out by the LEP – launched at the House of Lords in October – had remained the same.

Kent and Medway FSB chairman Roger House said: "The interim board has agreed its priorities for the LEP and will now be looking to work with partners including other business organisations, universities, colleges and local authorities to deliver those objectives.

"The FSB is willing to play its part to ensure those projects are delivered in a cost-effective way that will bring real benefits for businesses, residents and the economies across the LEP area.

"We have already seen this Government exclude the LEP from schemes which would benefit our local economies, such as the National Insurance contribution 'holiday', which means local start-ups are paying up to an extra £10,000 to employ staff compared with firms elsewhere in the UK.

"And also the Enterprise Allowance Scheme which gives grants to long-term unemployed people wishing to start their own businesses.

"We believe it is important that within its work the LEP gets the message across that excluding local entrepreneurs from such schemes is a false economy and damages UK plc."

Air Ambulance lands funding boost

KEEN consumer voting has won a £7,000 NatWest community donation for the Kent Air Ambulance.

After launching the Customer Charter in July, RBS and NatWest announced details of a new Community Fund to support charities and projects, and invited customers and local people to decide who should benefit.

Kent Air Ambulance amassed £7,000 after winning the £3,000 top prize in the banks' Larkfield and Tunbridge Wells trading areas, plus a runner-up prize of £1,000 from the Sittingbourne fund – the county has 11 funding areas.

Nationally, more than 1,100 organisations will receive a donation. Kent Air Ambulance is a proven lifesaver, responding to emergencies across the county by flying in a specialist doctor and paramedic by helicopter.

Response

Advanced procedures can be carried out at the scene before flying the patient to hospital.

NatWest's Kent director Maria Fisher said: "We've had an overwhelming response to the Community Fund and it's clear that people in Kent are passionate about the Air Ambulance charity and we're delighted to be able to make this donation and support the work they do."

Jill Playle, from Kent Air Ambulance, said: "We are thrilled to be awarded £7,000 and gain recognition for our efforts."

"The money will go towards running costs to allow us to continue to provide this lifesaving service to the people of Kent. Our thanks go to the public for voting for our worthy cause."



QUIDS IN: Air Ambulance staff welcome NatWest's £7,000 donation



Making timely case for extra winter light

A KENT businessman has asked his MP to support daylight saving time and queried whether we should be putting our clocks back in the autumn.

Aaron Dewhurst, managing director of the Glass Wipe Board Company, based in Hythe, spoke to his MP, Damian Collins, on local business matters.

One area of conversation was the daylight saving debate and how it could affect Kent businesses.

Daylight saving time was introduced in the early 20th century and since then Britons have been putting the clocks one hour ahead in spring and winding them back one hour during autumn.

Over the years the public and politicians have debated whether we should be moving the clocks back at all. Mr Collins, the MP for Folkestone and Hythe, supports daylight saving and believes businesses could benefit from having more daylight in winter afternoons.

He said: "Businesses in retail and leisure could open later and have more daylight trading time. Commuters would have the opportunity to travel home in the light."

Activity

"It would also reduce energy costs and increase business activity, therefore daylight saving would benefit not only local businesses but nationwide businesses too. The Daylight Saving Bill 2010-11, a private members' bill, has been introduced to Parliament. If passed, the Government will conduct further analysis, tests and reports. Prime Minister David Cameron would want the country on the whole to support the bill."

Mr Dewhurst believes an extra hour of daylight in the afternoon will have a huge benefit.

He said: "Not only will it allow an extra hour of trading for Kent businesses, but it is argued that road traffic injuries would reduce as children and some commuters would be travelling home in the daylight."

"Energy costs may be reduced as people are more likely to go outside rather than stay indoors where artificial lighting is used. An extra hour in the afternoon may also give tourism a boost because the extra afternoon light would lengthen the tourist season."

"Tourism-related businesses such as retail, hospitality and transport would benefit from the extra hour of trade along with the prospect of more tourists."

To view this clip, log on @ www.businessforkent.co.uk



Julie Maddocks reports from the Port of Dover as P&O launches Spirit of Britain, its biggest ever cross-Channel ferry



EXPANSION: The Ardo Food Ingredients team formed after the Ploegmakers acquisition

All the right ingredients for success

A FOOD manufacturer has acquired a Dutch ingredients firm to expand its position in the sector.

Ardo, one of Europe's largest food companies, has taken on Ploegmakers Food Ingredients which supplies fresh-frozen and refrigerated fruit, vegetables and herbs for different food products, including ready meals and sauces.

The Dutch company has an annual turnover of about £30 million. Through the acquisition, a new company called Ardo Food Ingredients has been established.

Debbie Henry, UK business sector manager of the new firm and who is based at Ardo's UK headquarters at Charing, near Ashford, said: "We already have a very successful food manufacturing sector, but the acquisition of Ploegmakers means we can now provide additional expertise, increased capacity, and a wider product range."

"The integration of a highly sector-focused provider with our portfolio will enable Ardo Food Ingredients to become a major player in the sector and the company of choice for frozen fruit, vegetables and herbs for industrial customers."

Ardo, which is based in Belgium, has 15 production and packing units in eight European countries.

It supplies 520,000 tonnes of frozen fruit, vegetables, pasta and rice to 54 countries each year and has an annual turnover of around £480m.

The company recently invested £15m in a new hi-tech factory at Charing.

County's 'big conversation' turns to future food security

THE security of Kent's food production, horticulture and agriculture was the main topic of discussion at a business event.

Kent County Council and the Kent Economic Board organised the debate in conjunction with East Malling Research and other major players in the production sector.

The event, viewed as a 'big conversation' with land-based businesses and their advisers, is part of KCC's and KEB's efforts to get closer to key industries to ensure Kent's future prosperity.

The conference was chaired by Jon Regan of Hugh Lowe Farms, KEB's business champion for the sector, at the East Malling Research conference centre.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter told the conference: "Businesses in the food chain in Kent employ more than 85,000 people and the sector is worth an estimated £2.6bn per annum to the county's economy."

"It is vital that we listen to their needs in order to ensure they can contribute to the future wellbeing of Kent and emerging priorities of the Local Enterprise Partnership."

"Feedback from this event will contribute to future business development in the county and give us a clearer understanding of what this diverse industry needs to succeed."

"We will then be better placed to look at planning policy, providing the right skills for the workforce and speaking on behalf of the industry in the corridors of Westminster."

An audience representing more than 100 businesses attended the discussion, which brought together the National

By **MATHEW BEECH**

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Farmers' Union, the Country Land and Business Association, and Hadlow College.

Oliver Doubleday, chairman of EMR and MD of GH Dean & Co, said: "With our global population growing at a dramatic rate we will need to increase food production by 40 per cent by 2030 – and on less land, using less water, pesticides, fertilisers and energy."

"With food security a global issue, we will need to make sure the UK's production is as efficient as possible."

"Government and the industry must invest more in research and development to ensure the industry is best placed to adapt to climate change and EMR remains a jewel in Kent's crown."

KEB and KCC plan more 'big conversations' with key industry sectors in the county, including construction and civil engineering; low-carbon and energy production; health and social care; and the digital and creative media sectors.

KEB chairman Geoff Miles said: "The land-based sector sent a strong message to ourselves and our partners that it is committed to playing its part in helping Kent to grow."

"If the other sectors show the same level of commitment as the land-based one did today then Kent is well-placed for economic success."



Paul Carter



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Cutting back on VAT – not your profits

By TRACEY BOOTH, VAT specialist at Reeves & Co LLP chartered accountants and business advisers, with offices in Canterbury and Chatham

NOW that the standard rate of VAT has increased to 20 per cent, small businesses will find the thought of reducing their VAT burden even more appealing.

Those with an annual, VAT-exclusive turnover below £150,000 per year may make big savings in their VAT payments by operating the 'flat-rate scheme'.

Once approved to use the scheme by HMRC, a business can account for VAT on its turnover at a lower rate of VAT, while still charging customers the full 20 per cent.

Different rates apply to different types of business. For example, hairdressers or beauticians account for VAT at a rate of 13 per cent; a management consultant 14 per cent; an architect or surveyor 14.5 per cent; a general builder (providing goods as well as services) 9.5 per cent; and pubs 6.5 per cent.

In return, the business does not make a separate claim for VAT on its purchases, except for capital items over £2,000 (eg, a commercial vehicle or plant and machinery) or stock and assets on hand at the date of registration, for which VAT can be recovered as normal.

If using the scheme within the first year of VAT registration the published rate can be reduced by one per cent for that first year following registration.

Once on the scheme, a business



TRACEY BOOTH: Tax advice

does not have to leave it until its tax inclusive turnover in the last 12 months, or looking forward, in the next 30 days, exceeds £230,000.

Those having difficulties with customers' late or non-payment of invoices may also find it beneficial to use cash accounting alongside the flat rate scheme, which allows the business to account for VAT only once it receives payment.



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THE BIG INTERVIEW

Fans used to a diet of high-octane Premiership football featuring millionaire players found themselves on short rations during the England team's performance in the World Cup finals last year. During post-tournament recriminations, a recurring theme was the lack of good homegrown talent nurtured by top English clubs, happy to import crowd pleasers from abroad. But is this set to change? Not at club level so much, but at the grass roots? STEVE LOADER went to watch and then became engrossed in a soccer training session at Maidstone



TONY BROWNE

T WAS a cold January night and I wasn't expecting much as I turned up for the end of SoccerElite training in Maidstone. The plan was to witness a session before interviewing one of the organisation's co-directors and former professional player, Tony Browne.

Will it have changed that much since my day, though? A time when grumpy and grizzled old coaches would shout grudging praise and seemingly gleeful abuse in equal amounts.

The answer is yes, if SoccerElite is anything to go by. I quickly found myself drawn into watching the obvious enthusiasm shown by youngsters, first practising skills and then playing a quickfire game, with Tony skilfully maintaining the tempo via chirpy tips and lobbing in a replacement ball quickly when the previous one had gone into touch.

BY the end, the players – some as young as seven, but all shapes and heights – left the floodlit practice field at Maplesden Noakes School, chattering loudly. After this workout, Tony, 34, stressed how important it was that, even when a lad missed a shot or was caught in possession, that his advice should carry a positive message. Not surprisingly, I find he has added a degree in sport science and psychology to his professional playing experience and FA coaching qualifications.

He and co-director Lee Spiller, 32 – another experienced professional and a former team-mate – started SoccerElite four years ago after perceiving a gap between local training efforts via schools and small clubs, and the professional clubs – the need for a kind of

football academy.

Not only has the business taken off, but unearthed a string of potential future stars after numerous trials with major clubs and signings with the likes of Tottenham, Arsenal and Chelsea and with Kent's biggest club, Gillingham.

SoccerElite sides now regularly play academy sides from the top clubs – many of these lead to a young player being spotted and invited for a trial or to sign.

More importantly perhaps, SoccerElite players are also exposed to foreign counterparts early through international tournaments. Last year some 60 players, aged seven to 12, accompanied by about 100 parents, took part in a series in Italy. This year they will contest a tournament in Valencia, Spain.

"They meet different types of players and skills, but it's not just about football; it's just an unforgettable

TONY BROWNE'S CV

- 1993 – left St John Fisher School, Chatham, and joined West Ham United. Other clubs included Brighton & Hove Albion, Gravesend & Northfleet, Folkestone Invicta, Welling United, Dover Athletic, and Ashford Town
- 2007 – co-founded SoccerEliteFA with former team mate Lee Spiller
- 2011 – embarked on ambitious expansion plan to take the organisation regional and then national



BLUE BOY:
SoccerElite's
Tony Browne
(left) and Lee
Spiller witness
protege George
Young, from
Maidstone, signing
for Premiership
club Chelsea



game's dream factory

experience that will take them to even greater heights," said Tony, with typical enthusiasm, adding: "While we are developing youngsters' individual skills, we are also teaching them to play in a team. It's not about results, it's about that awareness of working together and every player wanting to get on the ball as part of the team effort."

SoccerElite is now in the process of restructuring in order to expand outside of Kent, aiming to double in size each year over the next two years (see comment below by Phil Beavan of Innovation & Growth).

Tony himself was spotted early by West Ham United, which maintained a position in the top flight then largely through spotting and bringing on young talent, both to supply its team and to sell on.

His own experience convinced him of the need for organised training early on: "People just don't see it, but Lee and I know what made us better players, and that's what allows you to make that extra step up. Then you are playing with better players and that raises your game, increases your options and so on."

SoccerElite runs a team of experienced coaches and charges £7 a week per player, currently training around 400 youngsters – boys and girls – in and around the Maidstone area, including a special goalkeepers' master class.

"We pay a premium rate to use the best facilities available," said Tony. "It doesn't

compare well with what I've seen in America mind you, where I visited one college that had a 20,000-seat stadium and filled it virtually every game, but the game has a different structure out there.

"And facilities are getting better here, despite the fact that just putting in flood-lights for an evening practice facility starts at around half a million. Ultimately though, we want our own training facility."

Tony – a versatile midfielder and defender – hung up his boots two years ago: "The business was really taking off and taking my time. I work five nights a week and Saturdays at Chelsea's Academy – and, on the field... well, I wasn't getting any quicker.

"Of course I miss it, but this is great, too, working with young talent. I was also lucky enough to play with great players like Frank Lampard and Rio Ferdinand and it would be nice to think we are nurturing talents like that – there are not enough flair players coming through the English system.

"But SoccerElite is not just about the obvious talent. It's also about those kids who have something that will take longer to come out. Everyone's different and there are many kids whose footballing brain takes time to develop, or they are not physically ready.

"They are the types who get overlooked by the system, but we can carry on working with them so that they get a chance later or simply get more out of their game."



DREAM TEAM:
Enthusiasm for the game is clear at SoccerElite

PHIL BEAVAN – portfolio director of the Government-funded South East Business Innovation & Growth advisory service:

"What we have worked on with SoccerElite is changing a successful football coaching academy into a well-structured business that happens to coach football, in order to generate the higher levels of growth that the business deserves.



"SoccerElite is a very strong brand that has huge potential and what this restructuring will do is lighten the administrative burden on the management team and their backroom staff.

"At the moment the company is Kent's best known business secret and what we have looked at is putting the pieces in place to double size and turnover over the next 12 months, and go again the year after and through expansion outside of Kent. The company will remain Kent-based and become a major export for the county."

TONY'S TOP TIPS

- Catch 'em young – "We say it's obvious for football, but it applies to any skill or talent. Nurture it early and you will get the best from it."

- Give positive advice – "Stick and carrot was the traditional way, but youngsters can take it hard. I'm often shocked – like many people – by the stuff parents shout at kids from the touchline. We always try to be upbeat – it works. And it applies in all walks of life, not just football."

- Take advice yourself: "We have built a good business without any outside funding. We've used our savings and then some, and worked really hard, but we wonder whether we could have achieved more with outside help and advice. Now we have backers and sound professional advisers, we can go to the next level with confidence."

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Parkway station 'key to avoiding gridlock'

By **MARIJKE COX**

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THE wheels have been set in motion for the development of crucial transport links with the launch of a multi-million-pound funding bid.

If successful, Kent could see a share of up to £10 million of Government's £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund which would go towards the planned Thanet Parkway station at Manston.

The proposed development is one of a list of priorities, including a third Thames crossing and solution to Operation Stack, outlined by Kent County Council as part of a landmark strategy called Growth Without Gridlock.

Transport chiefs said the station, which would be on the Ashford to Ramsgate line, would not only help create thousands of jobs in east Kent, but improve the much-criticised rail network and boost business at Kent International Airport in Manston.

Kent County Council's former cabinet member for environment, highways and waste Cllr Nick Chard said it would have an enormous impact on Thanet and the surrounding area.



RIGHT TRACK: A Manston parkway station on the Ashford line could unlock investment

"We are working closely with Network Rail and we are trying to fund it by bidding for money from the Regional Growth Fund," he said. For me, it's a question of when we do this, not if."

The proposed development would improve journey times between Ashford and Ramsgate, where high-speed trains from east Kent are unable to reach full speed until nearer London.

North Thanet MP Roger Gale has been campaigning for better rail services for the area. He

said: "Upgrading the line between Ashford and Ramsgate and the creation of the Thanet Parkway station would also unlock investment."

Charles Buchanan, the chief executive of Manston, said anything that improved links and connectivity in east Kent could only be a good thing.

"The parkway station would have a positive impact on the area – we identified this in our own master plan for growth," he said. "East Kent will become a weekend destination for tourists, and residents and businesses can be served by an airport on their doorstep."

The £10m bid was put together by Kent County Council, Thanet District Council, Network Rail, Southeastern and Kent International Airport owner Infratil.

The Government said successful bids will be announced within 50 days.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said a Thanet Parkway station would support economic growth with an estimated 1,000 jobs created per million new air passengers.

He added that improvement to transport networks in east Kent could help create 6,000 jobs by 2033.

"To deliver true growth and prosperity we need radical plans and innovative new ways to fund them," Cllr Carter said.

The case for a Thanet Parkway station is explained in KCC's transport delivery plan Growth Without Gridlock. Click on www.kent.gov.uk to view the plan.

Having your say on future of industry

MANUFACTURERS are being urged to respond to a government growth review to have their say on the future of the industry.

The Advanced Manufacturing Growth Review document outlines the aims of the manufacturing sector, sets out the key competitive strengths and examines the major long-term growth opportunities.

The Manufacturing Advisory Service South East is asking Kent firms to respond before the February 11 deadline.

Programme manager David Caddle said the document sets out the action Government is taking within the sector.

"What we want to do as an organisation is to make sure manufacturers in our region know about this framework and are given every opportunity to comment on the plans," he said.

"There will never be a better opportunity for firms, working at the coalface, to have their views fed into the decision making process so they actually influence policy that will evolve over the next decade."

Strengths

The Advanced Manufacturing Growth Review will reflect the capabilities of UK manufacturing, the strengths of the economy and the opportunities for broad-based growth from globalisation, technological development and the move to a low-carbon economy.

It will also aim to tackle barriers such as skills shortages, rising energy costs, security of supply, export and regulatory issues.

Mr Caddle said: "Manufacturers need to read the document and ask, are these ambitions the right ones? Are there more pressing issues? What Government action would you like to see?

"We have already had a £50 million commitment to enhance the Manufacturing Advisory Service and a further £600,000 is being invested in a two-year automation and robotics programme that will deliver greater productivity and increase precision performance. It is pleasing to see advanced manufacturing is so high on the list of priorities and companies need to do their bit to ensure their voice is heard."

To download the document, go to www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-sectors/docs/g10-1297-growth-review-framework-for-advanced-manufacturing.

Comments should be sent to amgr@bis.gsi.gov.uk by February 11.



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Are you employing the right finance to suit your needs?

WARREN MULVIGHILL, the regional director for commercial banking at NatWest in Kent, explains how SMEs – small to medium-size enterprises – can improve their chances of gaining access to finance

IT IS important during the current climate to have a relationship with your bank that goes beyond just being a lender.

Banks are a great source of free business advice and can share a whole range of knowledge and tips on how to manage your cashflow and plan ahead for any potential pitfalls your business may face.

Providing business advice and support to SMEs is at the very heart of our business proposition at NatWest and we are committed to providing added value that will benefit all business sizes and ensure you make an informed decision.



ADDED VALUE: Explore banking options

In response to feedback from customers, the bank has packaged a number of lending initiatives designed to help them maintain a healthy cash position and identify growth areas. These include already established Government-backed lending schemes – the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme and European Investment Bank loan – as well as specific initiatives launched by the bank including a £1 billion Manufacturing Fund, SME Exporters Package, SME Customer Charter and the Business Hotline, as well as traditional banking facilities and lines of credit.

Indeed, with increased access to the wide range of funding schemes now available it is fair to say there are more finance options available to SMEs than ever before, so it is increasingly important for business owners

to explore all options and ensure the solution fits their business, rather than the other way round.

Lending is not the only proposition that supports your business, though. It is vital that you review your finances and ensure any excess funds are not laying dormant in current accounts but are positioned in deposit facilities tailored to suit your needs.

OUR deposits team has a wealth experience and knowledge to help support customers to find the best solution to meet their deposit needs to ensure your funds work as hard as you do and in line with your business aspirations.

For companies looking to diversify their risk, developing export markets is an ideal way of doing this while at the same time tapping into new areas of growth opportunities. It can seem a complex activity with a lengthy order to cash cycle, but we're here to help simplify the process and offer all the support we can.

In addition to having a strong product that appeals to overseas markets, you need to be able to assess your prospective customer's credit standing as well as cross-border collection risks. You also need to have a strong understanding of the specific risks you face in exporting.

That is why at NatWest we have developed a dedicated suite of materials and services that provides exporters with all the information they need to be successful.

The launch of the free Exporters Package last year covers the main risks exporters face, and the solutions available to help them manage these; together with details of a range of funding products for pre-shipment and post-shipment financing, and online tools that improve visibility and control over the financial aspects of export transactions.

THROUGH our comprehensive trade finance offering we can help customers to manage a range of risks, from fulfilling major export orders without having upfront payments to customer insolvency.

We have a presence in more than 35 countries, including the major trading economies worldwide, as well as an extensive partner bank network.

RBS also recently increased its credit risk appetite by extending its invoice finance offer to over 50 approved countries and trade finance to over 80 countries, including many of the UK's top export destinations.

These are just some of the ways in which we are working closely with our customers to provide that extra support needed in the current economic environment and demonstrate our continued commitment to helping SMEs.



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NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight

will focus on the legal sector

Help us build an extension to Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm

Vattenfall, a leading European energy company, would like to extend its Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm (also known by local people as Whitstable or Herne Bay Wind Farm) with up to 17 wind turbines. This Statement of Community Consultation explains how you can comment on its proposed application for a development consent order to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

Kentish Flats Extension - the proposal

The existing Kentish Flats wind farm with 30 wind turbines has been producing green electricity since 2005. The proposed extension is around 8km off Herne Bay and will be to the south and west of the current project. It could add up to 17 wind turbines in 7.7 km² of sea, in water depths between three and five metres at lowest tide.

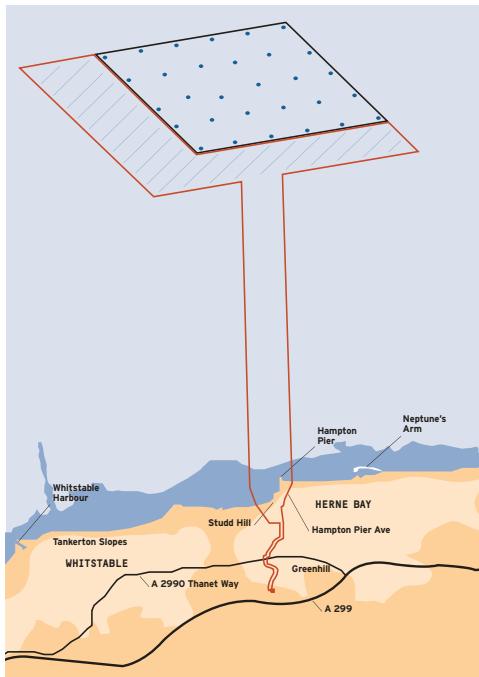
The wind turbines for the extension will have a similar capacity to those currently used, with a tip height up to 145 metres. The turbines will be placed on top of large steel tube foundations which will be driven up to 35 metres into the seabed, similar to the current scheme.

Underwater cables will connect turbines to the existing offshore substation from which one or two underwater cables will run to shore at Hampton Pier, Herne Bay. Onshore, the new cables will follow the route of the existing cabling along the Hampton Pier Road under paved roads to the Red House Farm substation south of Herne Bay. KFE will not require any changes to the power grid.

Due to its scale, Vattenfall must do an assessment, known as EIA, of possible significant environmental effects of the extension.

We are also seeking views from all interests, including the public, on the proposal. We will consult on the whole project and have identified the following as likely to be important:

- Potential cumulative impacts on Red-throated divers in the Thames Estuary
- Visual, landscape and seascape effects
- Impact on fishing, leisure and business interests, including tourism
- Impact of onshore construction on nearby households
- Impact on traffic on roads caused by onshore works



There will be an opportunity to consider these and other points, during the consultation process. We will make available the preliminary findings of our EIA. This initial environmental information will also describe any alternatives we are considering and measures to minimise impacts.

Why Vattenfall wants to extend Kentish Flats

Kentish Flats Extension (KFE) could generate up to 150,000 megawatt hours per year of clean electricity, if 17 turbines are deployed. This is equivalent to the total annual electricity needs of up to 35,000 UK homes.

The UK's delivery of its offshore wind potential could supply the equivalent of 30% of the country's electricity demand. Offshore wind in the UK will help European green energy targets and the reduction of emissions that cause climate change.

Vattenfall is committed to major reductions in carbon emissions from its activities as an energy company. Wind power will meet that commitment.

About Vattenfall

Vattenfall is a leading European energy company and is Europe's fifth largest generator of electricity and the continent's largest producer of heat. Across the north of Europe we operate many wind farms on land and in the sea. This includes Kentish Flats and Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, which is the world's largest offshore wind farm.

Statement of Community Consultation and the Infrastructure Planning Commission

In 2008 new planning laws changed the way projects like KFE are dealt with. Under this new regime the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) controls the planning process for nationally significant infrastructure projects. Vattenfall will submit its proposal to the IPC following a consultation with both the community and organisations including the local authorities, Marine Management Organisation and Natural England.

We will carefully consider all responses received and when the application is made we will report to the IPC and all responders detailing how we have taken the communities' views into account.

The IPC will ask Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council for their opinion of the Vattenfall community consultation. The Councils' opinion will play an important part in whether the IPC accepts the application.

Other planning matters

When the IPC decides on KFE it will take into account any energy related National Policy Statements (NPSs) published by the UK Government. These are currently in draft but will be finalised before a decision is made. These include: Energy (EN-1); Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3); and, Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5).

Vattenfall is unaware of any other applications to the IPC or local authorities or consultations which are relevant to this proposal.

You can view a document which describes our approach to the consultation on the Vattenfall website.

If you need help to understand this proposal and the IPC process you can contact Planning Aid by calling 0870 850 9806 or visiting www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/planning_aid_in_your_area/south_east/

PUBLIC INFORMATION & CONSULTATION DAYS

| Date & Time | Location |
|-------------------|--|
| 23 Feb 2011 2-8pm | Kings Hall Beacon Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 5BA |
| 24 Feb 2011 2-8pm | Whitstable Castle Tower Hill, Whitstable, CT5 2BW |

How you can find out more and tell Vattenfall what you think

Visit the website:
www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm

Email: mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com

Call: (0)7545 339 299

Post: Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB
Or use the feedback form and questionnaire available at the Public Information Days and public places where project documents are lodged.

This community consultation starts on 31 January, 2011 and you must reply in writing by 4 March, 2011 using the methods described above.

Please note that responses may be made public.

Help us build the best possible wind farm - get in touch

Vattenfall has already started its consultation but the formal community consultation runs from 31 January 2011 to 4 March 2011. Kentish Flats is already an important feature in the area and we value our good relations with local people.

Please look at our proposals, the preliminary environmental information, maps and other documents. All of these will be available on our website for the duration of the application and, during the consultation period at the locations noted below.

Your views will be taken into account as we complete the assessments of the KFE, finalise the design of the wind farm, and before we submit an application to the IPC.

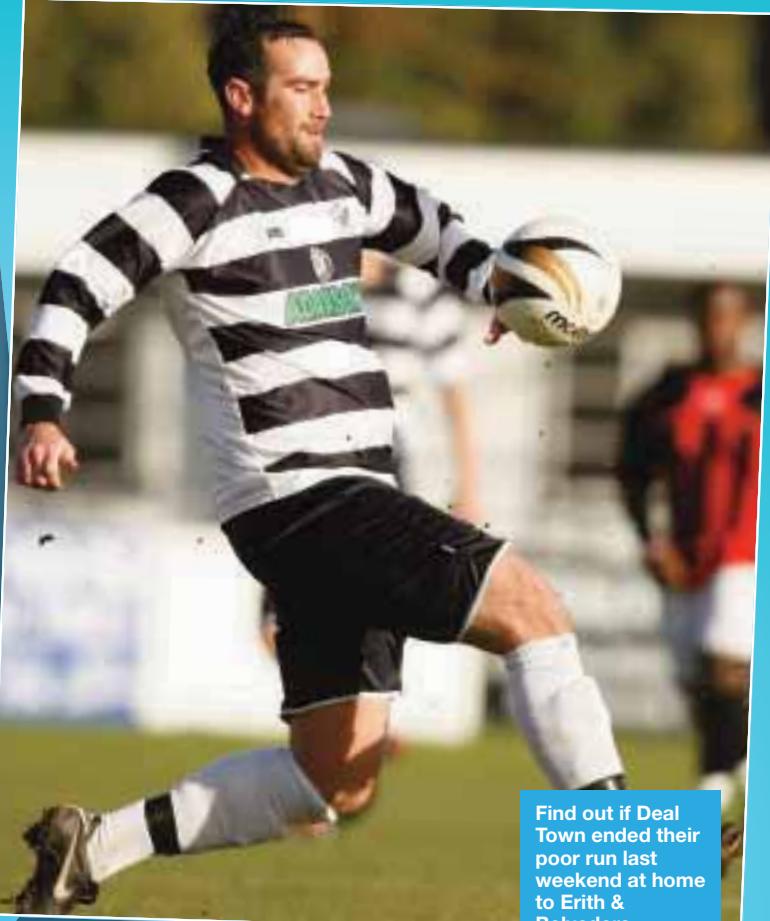
We will also do the following to help the Thames Estuary coastal community, especially around Herne Bay and Whitstable, and other interests, express their views on our plans:

- Contact by letter homes and businesses likely to be affected by our plans
- Hold public information and consultation days in Herne Bay and Whitstable with specialist staff on hand
- Advertise our plans in local papers
- Advertise the Statement of Community Consultation in local papers in the Thames Estuary region
- Hold separate workshops and meetings with fishermen, other users of the sea and the region's businesses
- Continue meetings with the Area Member Panels and Parish Councils of Whitstable and Herne Bay
- Maintain contact with all those who have shown an interest in the project
- Continue working with local media to publicise Vattenfall's plans
- Place all relevant documents on the Vattenfall website, including a questionnaire
- Work with Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council to inform local interests of our proposals explaining how they can get involved
- Work with both Councils to identify and engage with hard-to-reach groups
- Place the PEI, maps, other relevant documents and envelopes and questionnaires in the Harbour Office, Whitstable Harbour, the Canterbury City Council office in Herne Bay, Medway Council (Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham), Swale Borough Council (Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne), Thanet District Council (Cecil Street, Margate), Maldon District Council (Princes Road, Maldon), Rochford District Council, (3-19 South Street, Rochford) Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (12th Fl, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea), Castle Point Borough Council (Kiln Road, Benfleet)

Are you having difficulty reading this advert? Please contact Mandy Broughton on 07545 339 299 or mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com for a large print version.



Report and reaction from Dover Athletic's home game against league leaders Braintree Town last night



Find out if Deal Town ended their poor run last weekend at home to Erith & Belvedere



Jon Fordham looks back on the big changes in cricket during his 10 years in Kent's commercial and marketing department



Report from Saturday's game at Crabble as Dover RFC looked to extend their good home form when they hosted Portsmouth

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